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To Editors.

The University Farm Press News prepared with a sole view to the se of the matter in its columns by e editors of Minnesota papers. It as no subscription list, and is not nt to farmers. The endeavor is to ll its five columns with short arti- es relating to various phases of rural fe and industry — articles which very intelligent farmer will read with tisfaction, but which we want him read in your paper, not in ours. ou are at liberty to use the articles ith or without credit or name of uthor—as editorial or as clippings, st as you may prefer.

The College of Agriculture.

The next term of the Minnesota ollege of Agriculture will begin on uesday, September 19th, and con- nue until the second Thursday in ne, 1912. Its advantages are offered both sexes. Entrance examina- ons will be held from September 2th to 15th, inclusive. Applicants r admission to the freshman class ust offer fifteen entrance credits for igh school or other secondary school ork. These credits must be above a rtain grade, as mentioned in the talogue. Residents of the state are arged an incidental fee of $10 a mester; non-residents, $20 a sem- ter. College students may have als at the dining hall, and their undry work done, at the rate of bout 40 cents a day. Rooms may be ad at private houses for from $6 to 15 a month. Catalogues, with full nformation, sent free on application Prof. J. M. Drew, University Farm, t. Paul.

The Minnesota State Fair.

In determining that the State Fair hall hereafter take on more and more he character of a great educational nstitution, rather than that of a place or amusement and holiday-making, he present management is showing wise progressiveness. It is need- ess to say that in this movement the anagement has the heartiest sym- athy and co-operation of the College f Agriculture and Farmers' Institute oard. The exhibits from the College nd Experiment Station will be the ost varied and extensive ever hown, and the explanatory talks of he experts in charge, added to those f the judges in various competitions, ill have the effect of making the air, in verity—for those who come eeking instruction — a week-long armers' Institute. This is not to say hat there will be any lack of amuse- ent features. But these, it is intend- d, shall be held in marked subordi- ation to the main purpose for which he State has established the Fair— he advancement of Agriculture in innesota. Thus it is to be made worth while" for every farmer to at- end.

County Fairs.

The annual County Fair will soon e here, and many of our farmers are ow in contemplation of attending, nd probably of contributing some ex- hibit. A good county fair is a desir- able institution, and when rightly con- ducted it is worthy of the support of everyone in the community. When free from objectionable features, such as gambling devices and immoral side- shows, it can be made a commendable educational factor in every locality, and a source of recreation to old and young alike.

It is probably impossible to conduct a county fair to the entire satisfac- tion of everyone, but the aim should be to make it square in its manage- ment and clean in its attractions. The fair should foster the resources of the community, and the manage- ment should always be awake to such inducements as will stimulate a great- er interest in these resources and prove attractive to exhibitors. An able and pleasant secretary, with a good corps of assistants, can do a great deal toward the success of the fair, by polite attention to the exhib- itors and care in the arrangement of the exhibits. When exhibits are prop- erly classified, and well arranged, it facilitates the work of judging, avoids most of the causes of complaint on the part of exhibitors, and helps to please those who attend the fair to study and compare the exhibits.

All exhibitors should bear in mind that it is their duty to display the best they have, and to take a pride in showing the exhibit in the best manner possible. Also, the true ex- hibitor takes defeat with good grace, and never questions the decision of the awarding judge, except to learn his reasons for making an award.— O. M. Olson, Ex. Div. Minn. Univer- sity Farm.

Early Fall Plowing.

As soon as the binders have ceased to hum, the plow should be brought out and put into shape for work. Be- fore the stacking of the grain is over, there will probably be several occa- sions when a half-day or more can be used in plowing land from which the grain has already been stacked.

The plowing must be done some- time, and while some farmers will plead that there is plenty of time in which to do it, they do not fully realize that if those days that might be worked in during the grain stack- ing, etc., are not attended to at that time, they necessarily attach them- selves to the latter part of the sea- son. Besides the possibility that this neglect may crowd the work in the last few days of the season, it should also be remembered that an acre plowed in August is usually in a far better condition for crop production than when plowed in November. It gives greater opportunity for saving and storing moisture, and aerating the soil. It hastens the decay of buried vegetable matter, and furnishes a good compact seed-bed the following spring.

Where insect pests are numerous and likely to cause trouble, late fall plowing is advisable, but under ordi- nary circumstances the best crops are grown on early plowed land. Early plowing also destroys the weeds. Re- plowing is advisable in late fall if it is necessary to destroy insects.—O. M. Olson, University Farm.

Gains from Fall Plowing.

Fall plowing of land which has been occupied by wheat or other small grains, and of all land which has been used for pasture more than three years in succession, is urged by the experts of the Minnesota Experiment Station on such a variety of grounds as would seem to make it, if not an absolute necessity to success in the operations of the following year, at least extremely desirable.

1. The breaking up of the soil ex- poses it more fully to the mellowing action of air, sunlight and frost dur- ing the colder half of the year, and gives fuller opportunity for the set- tling of the furrow slice.

2. Deep plowing fits the land to re- ceive and retain in larger measure the moisture from rain and snow; putting the surface in readiness for the final disking and harrowing nec- essary for this object in the spring.

3. The labor is more easily spared for plowing in the fall than in the spring, and the work is likely, there- fore, to be more carefully done.

4. The turning over of the soil ex- poses to the winter frost the roots of a large number of weeds, thus pro- moting their destruction.

5. Finally there is nothing quite so destructive to a number of insect pests, including grasshoppers, the wheathead army worm and the whole brood of cutworms, as late fall plow- ing. Especially is it desirable—in view of the probability of extensive depredations by grasshoppers next year, if the precaution is neglected,— that all old timothy and stubble-fields, in every part of the state, should be plowed this fall. This precaution will prove worth any amount of rem- edial measures after the grasshoppers shall have "arrived."—C. R. B.

Our Schools of Agriculture.

The Minnesota School of Agricult- ure, at St. Anthony Park, was at the last term fairly swamped by the num- ber of students seeking its advant- ages. The legislature voted a sum of money for additional buildings, but they will not be available for use dur- ing the ensuing term; therefore the conditions of overcrowding, and over- work for instructors, seem likely to be repeated.

It is earnestly urged that all intend- ing students, to whom the new schools at Crookston and Morris are geo- graphically more convenient, should register at those schools. Whatever seeming advantages the St. Anthony Park school may have, from its loca- tion and its connection with the State Experiment Station, are probably more than offset by the greater amount of individual attention from instructors which the student will en- joy at the smaller schools. What- ever difference in expenses may exist is probably in favor of Crookston and Morris.

The necessary expenses of the six- months' term at St. Anthony Park, aside from traveling expenses and the cost of a military uniform, do not ex- ceed $100. The next term opens Mon- day, October 2d.

If cabbages are fed to dairy cows after milking, they will not taint the milk, as happens when they are fed before milking. And as a succulent food, higher in protein than other green feeds, cabbges deserve a place in the ration whenever cheaply ob- tainable.

Household Economy.

By Miss Mary L. Bull, Extension Div., Minn. College of Agriculture.

Use no canning powders!

Now is the time to prepare vegeta- bles and fruits for winter use.

Home-prepared foods are cheaper and better than those found on the market.

If cans are not at hand when peas, corn and string beans are in their prime, why not use the good old-fash- ioned method of preservation, and "dry" vegetables as well as fruits?

Drying String Beans.

Select young, tender, stringless beans, wash them, cut off stem and blossom ends, cut in one inch lengths, and put them on plates or trays pre- pared for the purpose. Cover with a net to protect them from flies, and put to dry in a strong current of air. Stir occasionally while drying. When thoroughly dried, put into insect- proof bags, tie securely, and keep in a dry, well-ventilated place for future use. Some think beans are improved by steaming them a short time before putting them to dry. Try both ways, and decide for yourself which suits you better. By putting a few to dry each time beans are prepared for the table, a good supply may be preserved with very little trouble.

Canning String Beans.

For beans to can, select and pre- pare them as for drying. Fill steril- ized jars with the beans, then add water until it overflows, place the rubber, and set the cover loosely. Set the jars in a steamer over cold water, or in a boiler or kettle of cold water; bring the water to the boiling-point and cook one hour. Screw the covers on as tightly as possible. Allow the jars to stand until the next day, when they should again be put to cook in cold water and finished as before. Re- peat the process the third day, boil- ing an hour each time. Do not loosen the covers after putting them on the first time. Be sure to put the jars into cool water each time when put- ting them over the fire. If the jars are set in water instead of in a steam- er, have some kind of a false bottom under them, which will allow the wa- ter to pass under them, to prevent their breaking.

Dried Corn.

Sweet corn may be dried in the same way as the beans. Prime sweet corn, when properly dried, properly stored and nicely cooked, is excellent and is preferred by some to canned corn. Select corn just right for the table. Be certain it is not too old. Husk, and carefully remove all silks. Plunge the corn into boiling water, and allow it to cook four or five min- utes. Cut from the cob, and put on plates or trays to dry. Proceed as when drying beans.

Canning Sweet Corn.

Sweet corn may be canned by the same method as described for can- ning beans. Green peas and aspara- gus may also be preserved in the same way.

Large Incomes from Small Tracts.

In a recent paper, Mr. Kirkpatrick, Horticulturist of the Extension Divi- sion of the Minnesota College of Agri- culture, cites one Minnesota horticult- urist who from sixteen acres of land extracts an income of $6,000; another who from two acres took $4,500 worth of tomatoes; another who from eight acres sold $1,055 worth of assorted vegetables; a fourth who took $4,000 worth of lettuce off a single acre; a fifth who gets $1,000 from an acre of celery; a sixth who sold $440 worth of strawberries from one acre of land. Here from a total of twenty-nine acres of land we have an aggregate income, for a single year, of nearly $17,000; being at the rate of about $585.50 per acre. Eighty acres, at the same rate, would yield $46,840 a year. And yet there are those who claim that 80 acres of Minnesota land do not afford sufficient scope for a large-minded, as- piring man. It is submitted that not until some such man shall have dem- onstrated that he can get as much per acre off of eighty acres as the individuals referred to did off of their smaller tracts will it be proven that the large farm is economically more advantageous to the state than the smaller one. The instances cited can most of them be duplicated many times over in almost every county in Minnesota. They show that only sci- entific training and business capacity are needed to secure large rewards from the cultivation of our soil, and this on a limited holding. There is absolutely no necessity for the large landed estate, to whose pretensions of economic superiority, some of those heretofore regarded as leaders in agri- cultural development have recently surrendered.—C. R. Barns,

Seed Corn.

That the corn crop of Minnesota today promises not only a larger ag- gregate yield, but a larger return per acre than ever before, is fairly due— at least in large measure—to the strenuous effort put forth last year, by the Extension Division of our Col- lege of Agriculture, to induce a care- ful selection of seed by the farmers, followed by careful drying and stor- age. A sufficient number of farmers would appear to have followed these methods to exercise a marked influence on the size of the crop. Their success affords the best demonstration possi- ble of the superiority of the new over the old haphazard methods.

It is with renewed confidence, therefore, that the Extension Division again urges the immediate adoption, by every farmer, of the plans hereto- fore recommended for the selection and care of seed-ears. Let every one take note, as he passes through his cornfield, of the stalks showing the most vigorous, stocky growth, and bearing the plumpest, best-developed (not the biggest) ears, and showing the earliest maturity. The latter point is desirable; for every day's gain in the time of maturity, in a variety otherwise already reasonably successful, is so much additional in- surance against a possible loss by an early frost.

Those farmers who this spring planted a seed-plot for the "ear-to- row" test, are on the right track for winning still further advantages in the effort to raise the standrd of pro- duction per acre, in Minnesota, to the level reached in other states. Per- sistency in this plan is certain to bring large rewards.

Some foolish alarmists have put forth the claim that all this endeavor to raise the standard of production by selection of seed will be futile; be- cause, they say, it is practically "in- breeding," and the law of "reversion to type," as they claim, will operate to counteract, eventually, the gains now being made. The claim is absurd. There can be no "in-breeding" unless the corn of each stalk is fertilized year after year by pollen from stalks of the same immediate progeny. In a field, it is as likely to be fertilized by pollen from plants several yards away as in any other manner. In- stead of in-breeding, therefore, that healthiest kind of breeding occurs, which comes from the union of the offspring of different families of the same vigorous race.—C. R. Barns, Ex. Div., Minn. Col. of Agriculture.

Cotton-Seed Meal Makes Corn go Farther.

It seems probable that the selling value of corn will be higher during the coming twelve-month, as a con- sequence of a diminished crop in most of the great corn states. Minnesota farmers have learned, however, that its feeding value is almost invariably higher than its selling value, and that the largest gain comes from feeding it to their cattle and hogs, and thus keeping on the farm the bulk of the fertilizing elements which are lost when the corn is sold. It is claimed, however, that by substituting a lim- ited amount of cotton-seed meal for a portion of the corn ration, in fatten- ing beeves, a gain of from one-fourth to one-third can be secured upon each bushel of corn fed. This seems to be verified by experiments at both the Indiana and Iowa stations. Therefore it may well be that by making such substitution the Minnesota farmer may find himself in position to turn a portion of his corn into money, this year, not only without detriment to his stock, but to its decided gain; while his farm will suffer practically no loss of fertilizer by the change. So the experiment is worth trying.—C. R. B.

The Corn Bill Bug.

This is the name given to an injur- ious insect whose appearance in Minnesota is this year for the first time recorded. According to State Entomologist Washburn, the adult in- sects are hard, grayish-black beetles about half an inch long. They have a rather long snout or bill, whence their popular name. They may be found working on the corn stems at or just below the surface of the ground. The first signs of their presence are rows of holes, usually four in each row, ex- tending longitudinally across the leaf. These holes are made by the beetles in feeding at the base of the stalks when the leaves are rolled up. Later evidences are found in stunted growth, distorted stems, and torn and tangled leaves. The insects occur most fre- quently on bottom lands subject to overflow, and on moist ground previ- ously covered with timothy or other grasses. Pending further study, the preventative recommended is late fall plowing; which, as in the case of many other insects, will invite the destruction of the larvae by frost.

Selecting Seed-Wheat.

The time for selecting seed-wheat begins when the crop is ripening in the field, and the selection should be completed before the grain is mar- keted.

On almost every farm there are spots where the wheat has a sturdier, more vigorous growth, with heads bet- ter filled out and bearing larger ker- nels than elsewhere. It is from these spots that the careful farmer will gather and separate the sheaves from which his seed-wheat for next year is to be threshed. He will see that they are carefully shocked, and that in the hurry of threshing-time they do not get mixed with the general crop. The quantity he will set aside will be sev- eral times as much as he will need for seed. This will allow a second and third selection at the fanning-mill— the second to separate the largest and plumpest kernels; the third to select from these the kernels heaviest in weight. These last it is which count the most in the production of a large and profitable crop. Their sep- aration will detract nothing from the selling value, at the elevator, of the re- mainder of the crop; since the small- er and lighter kernels will "mill" just as well; while the selected wheat has a double or quadruple value for seed. If there is a surplus of seed beyond the producer's needs, the fancy price it will command, when sold to his neighbors, will much more than com- pensate for the labor of selection.—C. R. Barns, Ex. Div., Minn. Col. of Ag- riculture.

Button-Holes.

The sight of half a hundred bright young women, under the supervision of Mrs. Margaret J. Blair, engaged in an eager contest, at the close of the Summer School at St. Anthony Park, to determine who should make the best button-hole and in the sortest time—this was something to greatly increase one's respect for the button- hole, and to enlarge one's conception of its importance in the scheme of our modern civilization. Such concep- tion is still further enlarged when one considers the amount of money paid annually by the State of Minnesota for skilled instruction to the girls in its schools in the art of making but- ton-holes. It costs several times as much, probably, as the Governor's sal- ary, or as the maintenance of the Supreme Court. In the curriculum of Domestic Art, in our Agricultural and Industrial Schools, our High Schools and other educational institutions, the button-hole is justly the object of high endeavor. Where would we be with- out it? Just imagine our predicament, should we wake up tomorrow and find all our garments minus button-holes— or with the button-holes all "busted!" —C. R. B.

A Contest Worth While.

The Boys' Judging Contest, to be held at the coming Minnesota State Fair, will be of far greater value to all who participate than is indicated by the sum to be distributed in prizes, liberal as the amount is. For it will afford such training as the art of judging live stock, corn and wheat, as will count heavily in developing the boy's capacity in his future life on the farm. Earl Zeller, the 14-year-old Iowa boy, who has won $2,000 in com- petitions for prizes for the best single ear and best ten ears of corn, in vari- ous county, state and national con- tests—$1,000 of it in a single year— says that he took the two weeks' course in corn and stock judging at Ames, Iowa; and that he thinks "it is one of the finest things the state has ever done" for the boys and girls of Iowa. Preparation for and partici- pation in the contest at our Fair should be well nigh as advantageous as attendance at a "short course."

Catching Flies.

"A New Method of Combating the House Fly" is the title of a sixteen- page circular, "No. 22," just issued from the office of State Entomologist F. L. Washburn, at St. Anthony Park, from whom a copy can be obtained on application. Its main idea is that, in- stead of allowing flies to multiply so that they force us to shut ourselves up behind screens, we should take ad- vantage of the fourteen days which elapse between the emergence of the fly from the pupal stage and the lay- ing of the eggs, to capture and kill every individual disease-bearing, filth- infested insect. To this end the use of cheap, but good traps is recom- mended—of which traps a variety of il- lustrations are given—to be attached to garbage and other cans, screens, etc. The effectiveness of these traps is shown by the fact that one, set in- doors, caught 2,500 flies in 55 minutes; also that in a recent fly-catching con- test at Worcester, Mass., the boys gathered in over ten barrels of flies.