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Extension Division Notes.

It is worth while knowing that oats worth approximately 33 cents per bushel, and corn approximately 63 cents per bushel for feed, when bran worth \$20 per ton. It often pays to buy oats and buy either bran or corn.

The consolidation of schools is a pertinent question to discuss and understand in your community. Its successful inauguration means better school facilities for the boys and girls, better health, and a general uplift to the community.

While getting corn for the hogs some time, after a hard day's work, remember that many Minnesota farmers find this unnecessary chore by turning their hogs into the field, allowing them to help themselves. This practice is worth looking into.

Every time we see a straw-pile burning, we think of the possible value of vegetable matter thus wasted, if properly applied to some old grainfield that is becoming deficient in vegetable matter, owing to continuous cropping.

Co-operation, we feel, is the passport for progress in many agricultural communities. Organize a Farmers' Club as outlined in Extension Bulletin No. 1. A good, live Farmers' Club is one of the best possible educational institutions you can have in your community.

How does your oat yield compare with your corn yield in pounds of feed produced? A pound of corn is worth much for feed as a pound of oats, provided it is fed in a balanced ration. The average Minnesota farm, corn yields 1.6 times as many pounds per acre as oats.

A few rainy days may now be spent in profit on many farms, getting hogs in shape for winter. Window sills could be put in; broken hinges fixed up; stanchions, stalls and floors mended; and do not forget the house. The women-folks may need a handy man for a day or so.

Do not let the stock stop growing or producing milk during the fall, for lack of feed or from exposure. Any loss sustained now will be regained at great expense of feed, or not at all. Keep the stock comfortable by supplying them with shelter from bad weather, and see that they have plenty to eat.

One of the best investments that any farmer can make, with a view to helping his boys and girls in the future, is giving those boys and girls a good general education, that will enable them to compete with others and hold their own in the future. One thousand dollars and a good education equip a young man much better for his struggles in life than will two thousand dollars and no education.

Co-operative grain cleaning, we believe, will be as common in the future as is the co-operative creamery now. They should be a community investment in city fanning-mills, and operate them differently by hand, when two fanning-mills connected with a small gasoline engine, and operated by a man who saves time and thought to the work, can do efficiently all of the grain-cleaning and grading in the community.

Some stormy evening, when the whole family is gathered about the fire, take up and discuss the feasibility of modern conveniences in the home. The kitchen sink, with hot and cold water; the bath-room, hot-air, steam or hot-water heat, are as much of a necessity for convenience and comfort in the country as in the city, and may be had cheaply. Every farmer's family may and should know the facts regarding these desirable improvements.

Orchard And Garden Notes, October.

By Le Roy Cady, Horticulturist, Minn. University Farm.

Plant a few fall bulbs, if this has not been done.

Clean up the garden. Remove or burn all trash.

Tie up the currant bushes so the snow will not break them down.

Pull, top and pit the root crops. They may be left in pits outside until well to November.

The dark green foliage of the Viburnum tomentosum has been especially attractive this fall.

Take up dahlias, cannas, gladioli, etc., as soon as the tops are frosted. Store in a cool cellar.

Prepare soil for "starting" boxes in the spring. Cover this, so it does not freeze, or place in the cellar.

Store squash and pumpkins in a dry cellar or basement. Even though it is quite warm, they will keep better than in a moist cellar.

Pyrethrum uliginosum and Boltonia among herbs, and Clematis paniculata among herbaceous vines, have been at their best this season.

Pruning of shade and fruit trees may be done this month. Paint all wounds, to prevent drying out. Do not prune when there is frost in the wood.

Remove and burn before next spring, all trees infected with the borer. Do not leave any dead trees in the yard or grounds, as they are only insect and disease-breeding quarters.

Protect apple trees from sun scald by putting boards or cornstalks on the southwest side of the trees. Mountain ash and young basswood may also be treated in the same manner.

Prepare to get better results with fruits, flowers and vegetables next season, by noting the mistakes of this year, and a study of some of the good horticultural literature easily obtained.

Celery for winter use may be put in the cellar as soon as freezing weather begins. Pack it tightly in boxes; cover the roots with earth or sand. A cool, dark cellar is the best place to store celery.

Prepare the ground and set a frame for next season's hotbed. Fill the frame with straw or leaves, and cover with boards. This will prevent the soil freezing as deep as it otherwise would. Better have plenty of soil prepared and protected, to use in the hotbed when needed.

Colt Shows.

Nearly every person, whether living in the city, village or country, takes more or less interest in the horse. It is easy to get an audience when it comes to studying horses, be it at a county fair, farmers' institute, or livestock meeting of any kind. We all have our favorites among the horses in a community, and are always ready to express our opinion as to the merits and demerits of the individuals.

Such interest should be encouraged in every community, and one of the best ways of doing it is to hold "Colt Shows" during the fall and winter months. In the State of Iowa, a number of these shows have been held during the past few years; and they have done much to improve the horses in that State.

In planning these shows, the first step is to solicit, among the farmers, stallion-owners and business men, for prizes that are to be awarded. These need not be in the form of money, but may be merchandise, machinery, or live stock of some kind. After the prizes have been assured, it will be necessary to advertise the show and appoint a committee, who should make a personal canvass of the community, to encourage the owners of colts to bring them out for the contest. Proper classification should be made; so that all colts, such as draft and light colts, will not be shown in the same class. Also, have pure-bred and grades shown in separate classes. If possible, it is a good plan to have the colts from each township show in separate classes, and the first-prize winners come together as champions of the show.

The Colt-Shows may be held in connection with local market days, or livestock meetings of some kind. Outside, uninterested parties should be secured to do the judging; and they should in each case give reasons for placing the colts. After the judging is done, practical talks on horse-breeding, by local men and those secured to do the judging, should be given.

Colt-Shows of this kind will also do much to advertise the stallions in a community. One of the best ways of judging the value of a stallion is by the crop of colts which he has sired.

For further information on this subject write the Extension Division, University Farm, St. Paul.—W. H. Tomhave, Ext. Div. Minn. Col. of Agr.

The family needs fresh air in cold, just as much as in hot weather. It is a mistake to so fasten storm-windows that they cannot be opened. Better no storm windows at all. For more disease comes from poor ventilation than from insufficient warmth. Storm windows save coal; but, unless so put up that they do not prevent ventilation, they multiply doctors' bills.

Like those in many another smitten region of the Southwest, the farmers in the neighborhood of Tulsa, Oklahoma, lost their crops by the drought of last summer. But, acting under the advice of business men, they have organized themselves into a sort of "credit-union," and by giving a combination note are able to secure from the banks all the money they need, payable after next season's crop is harvested. That is a deal more sensible and independent way than petitioning the Legislature for a loan.

Producers and Consumers Getting Together.

The whole country is interested in some recent movements in Eastern Pennsylvania and New York; by which, it is claimed, ten thousand heads of families in New York, five hundred retail dealers in fifty lines, and the farmers organized in the Pennsylvania State Grange, are brought into such relations as to insure better prices to the farmers for their produce, lower rates to the consuming families; and the select body of retailers, in consideration of their selling to consumers at a great reduction, are allowed a better percentage of profit than heretofore on the business handled.

Such co-operation as this is what thousands of farmers in every state have longed for, and what many a burdened city householder has dreamed of as affording relief from the oppressions of a false system of distribution, which has compelled consumers to support an army of middlemen, and to pay unreasonable tribute to transportation companies and warehousemen. It has been urged by writers on Political Economy,—from Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill, down to those of the present day—as the only method of securing to the producer his just reward; to the consumer, a scale of prices based on cost of production, rather than on the needs of the middlemen. But it has, apparently, taken the extreme pressure of the "cost of living" in cities this year, to awaken city dwellers to the necessity of co-operating directly with the farmers, if anything satisfactory was to be accomplished in the way of a reduction of prices. And, in a manner, this movement reinforces the old lesson that the best way to serve one's own interests is to help along one's neighbors. The moment the New Yorker set about helping the Pennsylvania farmer, and the farmer set about helping the New Yorker, all difficulties in the way of securing for each what he wanted would seem to have disappeared. There is no prosperity-maker like mutual helpfulness among men.

Supposing the new movement should meet the success anticipated by its leaders, co-operation like that inaugurated between the New Yorkers and the farmers of near-by regions should be equally practicable between the residents of the Twin Cities, Chicago, and other centers of population, and the farmers of Minnesota, Illinois and other states. And since it is founded on the justest of economic principles, there would seem to be no ground for fear as to the final outcome.—C. R. Barns, Ext. Div., Minn. College of Agr.

To The Editor.

This sheet is printed exclusively for your use and for the benefit of your readers. It has no other readers—no subscription list. Only by the reproduction of its articles in your pages can it accomplish anything for the farmer.

It is of the greatest moment to us, then, that the articles we present shall be such as you want—such as you think will increase the value of your paper to your subscribers. We shall, therefore, be grateful for any suggestions you may offer, from time to time, concerning topics to be treated in these columns. And if, occasionally, you want a special article, on some topic of immediate interest to the farmers of your particular locality, just write us, and we will endeavor to furnish it.

More Sheep In Minnesota.

No branch of animal husbandry more invites the attention of the progressive Minnesota farmer, today, than does the keeping of sheep. As compared with cattle raising, it holds out the lure of a double return; a crop of wool to be marketed in the spring; a bunch of lambs to be marketed a little later. The labor involved in caring for a flock of fifteen or twenty sheep is less than that required by an equivalent number of cattle. Sheep will thrive on pasturage which is insufficient for beefsteers; they are great destroyers of weeds; and beyond all other animals they enrich the land by their droppings. Hilly or rolling land, such as abounds in some sections of Minnesota, is their favorite abiding place.

There are at present not more than 15 sheep to the square mile in Minnesota. There should be four times as many. The perfect adaptation of surface and climate, supplemented by the use of correct methods in breeding, feeding and shelter, should make of Minnesota a shepherd's paradise. The present backward status of the sheep-growing and wool-producing industry in our state, is probably attributable, first, to the pre-occupation of our farmers with other work; second, to the

destruction wrought in years past, by dogs; third, to the failures of a number of men who, without previous experience, went into the business on a large scale, and who found, when too late, that they had bitten off more than they were prepared to chew.

We would invite no one to turn aside from successful cattle-raising or dairying to venture upon what may be to him an untried experiment in sheep-herding. But on many a dairy farm, and especially on farms with insufficient live stock, there may be room for a small bunch of sheep; and the study and care of these may develop such results as point the way to the keeping of larger numbers.

As for dogs, the farmers of our State have of late recognized the tramp dog, or any dog which will worry stock, as an intolerable nuisance, and have tacitly united for his extermination. And then, if the possibility of such killing remains, it is offset by the fact that a good shepherd dog, like the collie, for instance, will protect the flock against all canine intruders; as will a billy-goat put to pasture with them.

Fifty or twenty ewes, and a ram, will constitute about the right-sized flock with which to begin. They must have abundant shelter from rain and snow; but it need not be in a warm barn. Wet, whether from above or under-foot, is to be scrupulously guarded against by the sheep-owner. Exposure in a cold rain is bad for a horse or steer; it is doubly bad for sheep. The sheep-sheds should be on a high, well drained site—indeed, sheep should be allowed to run over no low, wet land, no matter how attractive the herbage thereon may be.

Except that the ram should have a little grain now and then, to maintain his virility, and the ewes a little at lambing-time, the flock will require only pasturage for the greater part of the year, with clover hay or like roughage for winter feeding. The farmer with only himself and a child or two to carry the burden of caring for animals, will often find the keeping of sheep more advantageous than the keeping of cattle.

An increase in the number of sheep kept in Minnesota would be attended with the organization of marketing agencies, for both mutton and wool, along lines so much more economical than those at present existing as to increase by a considerable amount the sheep-grower's profit.—C. R. Barns, Ext. Div. Minn. Col. of Agr.

Not a Fertilizer.

Lime is not a fertilizer itself, supplying plant food, like barnyard manure or commercial fertilizers. It is rather a modifier, valuable for correcting conditions unfavorable for the best growth of plants, like acidity or a tendency (in heavy clay soils) to puddle and bake after a rain. Most Minnesota soils have a sufficiency of lime among their natural constituents; and it is well to be sure that there is a deficiency before applying it. A Michigan circular says: "Perhaps the most reliable indicator of the need of lime is the failure of clover to make a satisfactory stand when other conditions are favorable." If your land produces a good crop of clover, it needs no lime, whatever the crop desired. Lacking this indicator, the one sure way of determining whether a soil needs lime, is by a trial on a small patch of ground. "An application of lime over a whole field would be a waste of both time and money if the field were not in need of such an application."—C. R. B.

Holding Back Eggs.

There has been much complaint recently, both among the commission men in the cities and among consumers, regarding the poor quality of the eggs shipped from the interior of Minnesota. Instead of gathering eggs daily, and marketing them as soon as gathered, as they do cream,—which is the only right way—too many farmers have allowed them to accumulate on their hands, in the hope of obtaining better prices. The country merchant follows suit, and holds the eggs he buys for a yet longer period, in a similar hope. As a consequence, great quantities of eggs are sent to the cities, which have been kept for from four to six weeks or longer—a term sufficient to make a vast difference in the quality of an egg. It often happens that not more than six or eight out of a dozen eggs, bought by the consumer as "freshly arrived," are fit to eat.

This sort of business is just the thing to destroy the market for eggs and render unprofitable the poultry enterprise. If eggs were gathered every day, and shipped to their ultimate market at once, the quantity demanded would be so much greater that prices would be maintained at a higher level. This has been already demonstrated in the history of several co-operative egg associations in Minnesota.

So long as the system exists which at present prevails in most Minnesota villages—where the local merchant buys all eggs that are offered

him, regardless of quality, at a fixed price, payable "in trade," and passes on to the city dealer just what he gets—the farmer is bound to be the loser. "The hen always does a good job in laying a fresh egg" and the producers will have done a job equally good for himself when he shall have seen to it that the egg reaches the consumer while it is still fresh. If this cannot be done through the local merchant, the co-operative association is something easily organized. The one thing to be impressed upon the producer, as the most important fact, is that his largest gain will come from the substitution, in the city markets, of eggs strictly fresh for the half-rotten ones which now constitute the larger part of the supply.—C. R. Barns, Extension Division, University Farm.

The Foolishness of "Hunting"

It will scarcely be claimed that any good purpose can be served by the extermination of all the wild birds and wild animals of North America. Yet such is the lust for killing things that their practical extermination is placed by Wm. T. Hornaday, Director of the "Zoo" in New York, at a date no further away than 1950. A million shot-guns are in use every year, under the guise of a "sportsmanship" encouraged by law, in wiping out the game. From the musk ox herds of the far North to flamingo-roosts of Florida, and beyond, every form of wild life is annually decimated.

The theory of all our game-laws is that wild game is "the property of the State." Yet not more than one man or boy in forty-five ever "goes hunting." The sale of the proceeds of his "hunt" being forbidden, in their practical operation the laws give to one forty-fifth of our population a monopoly of eating game! The interests of the other forty-four forty-fifths of our male population, and of the whole female population, would be better served by the confiscation of all the shot-guns and a prohibition of private hunting of all sorts. Then, after a few years, when the birds and animals should again have become plentiful, the killing of a certain proportion of those fit for food might well be entrusted to a force of State agents; and the game placed in the markets where everybody would have a chance at it. Such a plan, with the legalization of private preserves for the propagation of game for marketing, would, in the course of ten or fifteen years, make venison, quail and prairie chickens again available for the tables even of the workingmen. And our farmers would find in co-operative game propagation another important source of revenue. As for the hunter, his killing instinct belongs to a past era in the world's history. If, however, his main incentive to hunting is the enjoyment he finds in an active life in the woods, he will find in the camera a splendid substitute for the gun.—C. R. Barns, Extension Division, Minn., University Farm.

Saving Corn Stover.

An immense portion of the 1911 corn crop is standing in the shock, with the expectancy that it will either be fed in the bundle or husked from the bundle, and the stalks used as roughage. In either case, the approach of winter forces upon the owner the problem as to whether it shall be left in the field and hauled in as needed, or hauled in when dry, and stored in some manner.

Past experience has taught most farmers that leaving it in the field until needed is a hazardous and very unsatisfactory procedure. The drifting and melting of the winter snow not only reduces the quality of the feed, but increases the task of getting it to the stock.

The problem of storing it is, however, not an easy one; and many have met loss in their attempt at storing it. The first precaution to be observed in the storing of such feed is that it shall be absolutely cured and dry. The losses that have occurred have been almost entirely due to heating, caused by a presence of moisture. If one is not sure that the bundles are perfectly dry, he should set them up several bundles deep along both sides of a fence, or put them in very narrow ricks, say the length of a bundle in width, alternating the tops and butts in every course until the stack is completed.

Bundle corn that is absolutely dry can be put in ricks ten to twelve feet wide, and there will be very little risk of heating, especially if the rick is topped with some old hay or straw, to prevent rain or melting snow from penetrating the stack. Where the amount to put away is not very large, it may be placed on the top of a well-settled hay-stack, and thus avoid the risk of being buried in drifting snow. Small amounts can often be placed in hay-sheds and hay mows, if one is sure that it is thoroughly cured and dry at the time it is stored; but it is not advisable to store a very large quantity in this manner.—O. M. Olson, Ext. Div. Minn. College of Agr.