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## NOVEMBER ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES.

Spray with lime sulphur or other fungicide and insecticide.

Make plantings of spring bulbs if it is not already been done.

Cover Boston ivy vines with straw for a protection against winter.

Rake up and burn all prunings and weeds in the orchard and garden.

As soon as the ground freezes cover strawberry bed and bulb beds.

Place oak boughs that are holding their leaves over tender evergreens.

Prune and burn all diseased limbs of dry fruits clinging to the plum or apple tree.

Mulch orchard trees and shrubs with manure as soon as the ground freezes a little.

Secure plenty of good potting soil and leaf mold for planting next spring's seeds or for hot-bed use.

Euonymus machii or wahoo is a splendid fall plant on account of the fruit which hangs on late.

Draw the currant branches together and tie them to prevent their being broken down by the snow or sleet of winter.

Cut and burn asparagus canes. Well rotted manure is available for mulch the bed well with it, plowing it in as early in spring as possible.

Place burlap, cornstalks or boards on the south side of small smooth-barked lawn trees and apple trees to protect from sunscald during the winter.

Do not allow house plants to stand in water in the jardiniere. Water as frequently and thoroughly as the plant needs, but keep the jardiniere dry at all times.

As for the balsam flowers plants located at this place until toward spring. A barrel of logs may be made for next season's growth.

Put plenty of broken pottery in all pots over four inches in depth when potting or repotting plants. This will insure good drainage which is always essential to plant growth.

Cotoneaster acutifolia and Alpine currant have held their foliage throughout most of October. The changing color of Cotoneaster has been especially pleasing this season.

Send to the Experiment Station of the State and to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for bulletins on the subjects of most interest. Put in a few winter evenings studying these and some of the farm papers.

Just before snow comes cover the lawn with well-rotted manure. Rake its litter off in the spring after the rains have worked the manure into the soil. Better sod will result. Seeds will be kept in check more easily by the grass.

## SAFE ROADS.

New Conditions Raise Requirements.

The advent of motor vehicles brings new road problems. For slow moving vehicles, of course, almost any grade or curve was safe. Horses, bicyclists and pedestrians are in danger of going over declivities or through fences on curves, only in case of accident.

The greater speed of the automobile and motorcycle introduces new dangers and much stronger guard rails beside vines or on bridges are now necessary, but the greatest change needed is in case of sharp curves. These have always been a little embarrassing especially in case the road was narrow and in some instances drivers cannot see one another until they are less than 100 feet apart on such curves, or as they approach the brow of a hill. If each should happen to be traveling at the rate of only 10 or 15 miles an hour, they are approaching one another at the rate of 20 or 30 miles an hour, or the speed of a railroad train. It is not enough to say that they should not drive at such a speed for the man who approaches a point at a safe speed must be protected by every possible means from the more reckless driver who sometimes travels 20 or 25 miles an hour. These curves are dangerous enough at best and should be removed wherever possible. If they cannot be removed they may be made less sharp; bushes or hedges that obstruct the view should be removed.

## WINTER OCCUPATION OF LABOR.

The profitable employment of labor during the winter season is one of the difficult problems on many farms. Unless the scheme of farm organization is well balanced the horses needed for summer work, as well as the men, will be idle during a part of the winter. They must be fed and cared for and the money invested is costing interest all the time. Some way should be provided in which they can at least earn a part of their board. The cost of feeding the horses can often be reduced by feeding cheap forage and allowing the horses to rough it in a lot or shed. It is possible in some places to use them in hauling building material, cord wood, or fence posts. So far as possible, bulky farm produce should be marketed during the winter, thus using the horses when the demand for horse labor on the farm is not so pressing.

Many forms of occupation can be devised which will employ the man labor on most farms. Caring for live stock is one of the most common as well as most profitable. What the particular class of stock should be will depend on the food supply, the market facilities, and the kind of labor available. The care of dairy cows may be combined with wood cutting to advantage in many cases. A flock of sheep may be purchased and fed out on cheap, rough food and some grain. A car of feeder cattle may be finished on bundle-corn, thus saving the cost of husking and at the same time providing winter occupation for labor.

The farmer who has a lot of good grain or corn on hand may make good wages by preparing it for sale as seed and putting it on the market as such. A few farmers in Minnesota last winter increased the price of their seed corn from \$3 to \$8 and \$10 a bushel by careful selection and making individual ear tests. One farmer sold \$260 worth of seed corn from a sixteen-acre field in this way without depleting to any appreciable extent his supply of feed. He counted his time well spent.

Many operations usually conducted in open weather can be hastened by attention and preparation during the winter season. Machinery and harness repairs, fence and building alterations or repairs, manure hauling, feed delivery and storage, and others will come to the mind of the forehanded farmer as he gives thought to the matter. All of these items are vitally connected with the profit side of the financial statement.—Andrew Boss, Agronomy and Farm Management, University Farm, St. Paul.

## PROFIT IN SPRAYING.

Failure to Spray Brings Loss to Orchardists.

Spraying is absolutely essential to the production of the best fruit. It brings a large profit in dollars and cents if up-to-date methods are followed. This is strikingly proved by some five-year average figures which we quote from the Nebraska Experiment Station.

During the five years an average of four sprayings a year was given to 16 orchards which had 3,300 trees in all, averaging 18 years old. Each year, 13 gallons of spraying material per tree were applied, or 650 gallons per acre of 50 trees. The average cost of 100 gallons of spraying material was 87 cents, and it cost 98 cents more to apply it. From these figures it is readily computed that it cost 11.3 cents per tree for spraying material, or 24 cents a year to cover the whole cost of spraying a tree when the work was done in an orchard of some size. This makes a total spraying cost of \$12.00 for each acre of 50 trees. The benefit is indicated by the following figures:

	Unsprayed	Sprayed
Marketable fruit.....	90	\$36.90
Culls and windfalls.....	85	4.25
Advantage of spraying trees.....	100	76.55
Average cost.....		12.00
Average net gain per acre.....		64.55

F. L. Washburn, Division of Entomology, Minnesota Experiment Station.

## TAXING BILLBOARDS.

Considerable attention is being given to the billboard nuisance of our cities and country towns. This nuisance is even creeping into the country and spoiling some very pretty landscape views. Civic societies are considering ways and means of eliminating the billboard with its inartistic, undesirable features. As a result some of the larger billboard advertisers are paying more attention to artistic effects and featuring less objectionable things.

At best the billboard is undesirable and inartistic and some means of entirely suppressing it should be found. The French Parliament provided a law, which went into effect last June,

taxing the billboard from ten to eighty dollars a square yard, according to its size. The larger the billboard, the heavier is the tax. If it bears two advertisements, the tax is doubled and if three, it is trebled. It is said that, since the passage of this law, no new billboards have been erected and it is quite likely that, after the three years of grace given to those already in use are past, the billboard nuisance will be almost entirely done away with in France.

It is said that in New York alone the revenue derived from the billboard amounts to nearly a million dollars annually. These boards are even built in open violation of laws regulating their construction and are unsafe and unsightly. Scarcely a trip is made on the street cars or railroad trains, or even public wagon roads, without passing through lanes of flaming advertisements which very often, especially in the rural districts, cut off pleasant views of field and forest.

Why not tax this nuisance enough to put it out of business, or at least reduce its use very greatly?—LeRoy Cady, Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

## POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

"Lives there a man with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself has said  
This is my own my native farm,  
Where I may live all safe from harm?"

Why not possess your own farm and operate it? The people of the land are destined to be the people of the future. America is building up all too rapidly a landlord-tenant system. Begin now and get a farm.

Fall plowing produces better crops than spring plowing.

Why did you burn the straw piles? Did it ever occur to you that in burning a ton of straw valuable plant food was lost? The soil suffers in physical condition as well as available plant food when humus is destroyed. A ton of wheat straw has 220 pounds of nitrogen, 80 pounds of phosphoric acid, and 240 pounds of potash; oats straw has 240 pounds of nitrogen, 80 pounds of phosphoric acid, and 360 pounds of potash. Why throw this plant food away for the sake of illuminating the prairies? Scatter it over the field and plow it under.—C. P. Bull, Associate Professor of Agronomy, University Farm, St. Paul.

## HAVE A LEADER.

Farm Specialties May Pay Well.

Every progressive merchant, no matter how large his stock in trade, caters to the public with some particular part of his stock as a leader. Likewise, sensible farming may call for a diversity of lines, but he is a poor workman who does not show aptness for some particular thing, and indeed a poor farmer if one cannot find something to commend. If your aptness leads you toward dairy stock, horses, hogs, corn, turkeys, or whatever else, follow it to the extent that it brings you not only satisfaction and success, but financial return as well. Do not, however, permit it to so far outweigh the other lines you are following that it will unbalance your system of farming. One-sided farming is dangerous to follow, and is seldom a lasting success.

Your leader should be one that will attract the attention of your neighbors and set the pace along that line in the community. Not only will it set the pace of the community, but if you are made of the right stuff, it will mark the pace for the other lines you are following, and raise your standard along all lines.—O. M. Olson, Extension Division, University Farm.

## PURE SEED POINTERS.

Have you saved and cured your seed corn? Don't fail to do it. The present indications point strongly toward a repetition of last spring's scarcity and poor quality.

Have you got your clover, timothy and alfalfa seed for next spring's seeding? Now is a good time to get it. Write the Secretary of the Minnesota Field Crop Breeders' Association, St. Anthony Park, Minn., for a seed list. You can then buy directly from the producer. Experiment Station improved strains are advocated.

How about the seed wheat? Have you a pure variety and a clean lot of seed? If not, ask yourself why. You can save what seed you will need from this year's crop and still be able to sell the rest on the general market for as good a price as though the best had not been removed.

Is your farm free from wild oats, Canada thistles, and mustard? If not, why not? Pure seed from a small separate seedplot and rotation of crops will solve the problem for you.—C. P. Bull, Associate Professor of Agronomy, University Farm, St. Paul.

## CO-OPERATION FOR GOOD SEED.

The Community Fanning Mill Helps in Seed Selection.

Cereal improvement is part of farm progress. The methods to be used are still unsettled in the minds of many farmers. The most technical and complicated methods of plant breeding must be left to experiment station men who devote their lives to the study of the problem.

The fanning mill is certainly practical on any grain growing farm. It should be used to remove light kernels, weed seed and trash. The heavier, larger kernels selected by the fanning mill are usually more productive; and all agree on getting rid of the weed seed and trash.

We have said that the fanning mill was practical on the average farm and it ought to be used there. One great obstacle to such use arises from the fact that few men know how to make the fanning mill clean and grade the grain as they want it. Many have had poor fanning mills. Others do not have the necessary room to make grain cleaning convenient.

Why not clean grain in the same way that we trash it? Every community has some mechanically inclined farmer who can handle the fanning mill outfit better than anyone else in the community. Let him clean and grade the grain. He can equip a tight bottom, low wagon with two good sized fanning mills operated with belts by a small gasoline engine. With such an equipment he might go from farm to farm, take the grain from the bin, clean, grade and return it, all by the use of machinery. The fanning mill man may easily grade so as to take out five or ten per cent or more of the heaviest and plumpest kernels for seed. This would not seriously affect the quality of the market grain.

The man who will put such a plan into operation will be a real blessing to the community. His work will result in the use of the fanning mill where it would not otherwise be used. He will save much hard work on the farms of those who would otherwise run the fanning mill by hand. A gasoline engine costing somewhere between \$50 and \$100 will do the work that might otherwise require hundreds of days of labor at the crank of the fanning mill. It is easy to conceive that he might add greatly to the small grain yield and profit of the community.—A. D. Wilson, Extension Superintendent, University Farm, St. Paul.

## THE FARM TOOL CHEST.

Pleasure and profit meet in the farm tool chest. The good workman takes a just pride in bright, well kept tools. They cut down repair bills. They avoid the delay and cost of sending for a carpenter. They are especially needed at this time of the year in repairing buildings for the winter.

The exact tools to be provided vary with the nature of the work to be done, the size of the farm and the means and personal tastes of the farmer. Every farmer should have at least the following tools:

- Hammer
- Rip saw
- Hand saw
- Jack plane
- Square
- Ratchet brace
- Expansive bit
- Bits 1/4, 3/8, 1/2, 5/8 and 3/4 in.
- Chisels 1/2 and 1 1/2 in.
- Mallet
- Drawknife
- Screw driver
- Rule
- Marking gauge
- Wood rasp
- Oil stone

Buy good tools. Cheap materials even at a little lower first cost, do not mean economy here. Have a place for every tool and every tool in its place. It does not take long to lose quite a bit of money if tools are carelessly thrown about by children or hired help.—H. B. White, Agricultural Engineering, University Farm, St. Paul.

## MORE SKILLED FARMERS.

Cheap land suitable to the production of staple crops is no longer generally available. Agricultural lands have increased rapidly in value, and population has increased more rapidly than food production. Urban population has increased relatively more rapidly than rural, and we may fairly expect that the higher prices for agricultural productions will be permanent. It is an economic law of agriculture that cheap labor, cheap methods, cheap lands and cheap products go together.

The unscientific, unbusinesslike, unskilled must and do constantly give place to the scientific, businesslike, skilled workman. The great problem that is before us in agriculture is the production of these skilled workmen. This does not mean simply skilled

operatives or factory hands. It means men and women trained in agriculture, home making, rural life affairs, business methods and broad citizenship. This requires the co-operation of many agencies. The work involves experimentation, demonstration, education.—A. F. Woods, Dean, College of Agriculture, University Farm, St. Paul.

## FARMER'S SHORT COURSE.

Open to All at University Farm, St. Paul, January 20 to February 15, 1913.

The Short Course for Farmers, which is held at the School of Agriculture, University Farm, January 20th to February 15th, will have a number of special features which will make it very attractive to the farmers of the state.

Professor C. G. Hopkins, now of the Agricultural College of Illinois, but born and raised in Minnesota, will lecture on soil fertility and a permanent system of agriculture. Dr. Hopkins is a scientist of world-wide reputation. M. L. Bowman, joint author of "Corn," a textbook used in a number of schools and colleges of agriculture, will again lecture on this subject. Mr. Bowman is an enthusiast, and stimulates great interest in the subject.

H. G. Van Pelt, author and lecturer, will lecture on "Types of Dairy Cattle." Mr. Van Pelt has been giving these lectures in nearly all parts of the United States. He is one of the best dairy lecturers in the country. He judged the dairy cattle at the last Minnesota State Fair.

The last week of the month will be given up largely to the subject of horses. At that time the Minnesota State Horse Breeders' Association will convene at the school, and all farmers taking short course work will have the advantage of attending these meetings. G. L. Carlson, of Nebraska, who stirred up such a great interest in the subject of horse breeding last year, has been secured for lectures again this year. A number of other prominent horsemen have also been secured.

One of the special features of the course will be the consideration of the silo question. Representatives of many makes of silos will be on hand to explain the features of the different styles of silos manufactured. An open forum of the whole subject will be given. A. C. Smith, who has recently taken charge of the poultry work at the University Farm, will give special work for those who are interested.

No entrance requirements are enforced for the Farmers' Short Course, but there will be a registration fee of \$5.00 for the entire course or any part of it. Anyone may attend who is able to profit by it and men and women, young and old, all are invited to attend. For particulars and program address J. M. Drew, Registrar, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

## WISCONSIN HAS MODEL LAW

Minnesota Should Duplicate Wisconsin Law Governing Co-operation.

Wisconsin, which may truly be termed a progressive state, passed a law recently which should be duplicated in Minnesota and other states at once. This law governs the incorporation of co-operative associations and the fees to be paid for them. An essential feature of the law is that any number of persons, not less than five, may associate themselves as a co-operative association, society, company, or exchange, for the purpose of conducting any agricultural, dairy, mercantile, mining, manufacturing, or mechanical business on the co-operative plan. It provides for the drawing up of articles of incorporation and the filing of them with the secretary of state and register of deeds in the county in which the association is to have its headquarters. The fee for filing with the secretary of state is \$10, with \$5 additional for the filing of amendments. The fee for filing with the register of deeds is 25 cents. The law provides for the distribution of profits on the basis of patronage, that is, only fair rates of interest are paid on capital invested and profits are distributed in proportion to the amount of business done by each individual in the association. The amount of stock that may be held by one person is limited and each stockholder is limited to one vote. The law further provides a penalty for the use of the word "co-operative" by any organization that is not based on true co-operative principles; that is, any company that pays profits on capital stock instead of on patronage, or does not comply with the requirements of the act cannot use the term "co-operative."

Minnesota needs such a law: First, to protect its citizens from being misled by the term co-operative; second, to provide some simple and easy means of legalizing co-operative associations; third, to legally establish a basis for true co-operation.—A. D. Wilson, Univ. Farm, St. Paul, Minn.