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ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES.

January 1.

Minnesota has no cherry that can be recommended for general planting. One local organization handled about \$50,000 worth of fruit this year at a cost of about 5 per cent.

Local organizations seem to handle fruit and vegetables most satisfactorily.

Careful pruning and care of the orchard will check or entirely eliminate blight.

A few dollars' worth of good shrubs properly set and cared for adds hundreds of dollars to the value and homelike appearance of property.

When planting shrubbery about the home select those varieties that will give a succession of bloom or fruit throughout the season.

Vegetables should be carefully prepared for market. Supply what your market can use and put it up fresh and in the most attractive package possible.

Plant a quantity of common annual flowers, such as petunias, sweet peas, nasturtiums, zinnias, candytuft, sweet alyssum, marigolds and poppies. They require little care and are always useful for cutting.

If garden vegetables are planted in large quantities, secure the seed for enough in advance to either test it yourself or have it tested in a seed laboratory. Some seeds germinate quickly, while others take several weeks.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES.

January 8.

The Spencer types of sweet peas are among the most attractive.

Sweet peas like a loamy top soil underlaid with a well-drained clay subsoil.

Local farmers' clubs may be organized to promote horticultural interests as well as for many other purposes.

Pack fruit honestly from top to bottom, and put your name or trademark on it, in establishing a permanent market.

Better make the small apples into cider for vinegar or feed them to pigs, rather than try to market them with good fruit.

When planting an orchard, set varieties to insure proper pollination. Every eighth row set to the proper variety will usually be enough to insure pollination.

Some of the fall-bearing strawberries are becoming of value. A few varieties bear well in autumn, especially if the flowers are kept picked in the spring, forcing them to fruit in autumn.

Don't grow more apple trees than can be taken care of well. If the fruit is to be sold, two or three good varieties, well cared for, are more salable than a few trees of many varieties.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

SHORT COURSE FOR FARMERS

A Short Course for Farmers will be held at University Farm, St. Anthony Park, Minnesota, January 19 to February 14. Instruction will be given in all farm subjects, special attention being given to soils and their management, farm crops, grain and corn judging, horticulture, poultry, bee keeping, dairying and live stock raising. The course covers four weeks and will be full of interest to those who wish to learn about farming.

For further information, address J. M. Drew, Registrar, University Farm, St. Paul.

DAIRYING IN SHORT COURSE.

C. L. Hill, F. H. Scribner, W. F. Shilling will assist the regular instructors in dairying at University Farm in giving the instruction in the selection, care, and management of dairy stock at the Farmers' Short Course, January 19 to February 14. Mr. Hill is a famous Guernsey cattle breeder from Rosendale, Wisconsin. Mr. Scribner is with the United States Department of Agriculture as a dairy expert and is an authority on Jersey cattle. Mr. Shilling is a breeder of Holsteins and president of the State Dairymen's Association. The instruction in dairying will be given during the first and second weeks of the short course.

For further information, address J. M. Drew, Registrar, University Farm, St. Paul.

POULTRY NOTES.

The weather has been very favorable for the development of late-hatched pullets. They should be in prime condition now and ready to lay abundantly if properly fed.

Scratch feed consisting of cracked corn, wheat, and oats should be fed in the litter at least twice a day either mixed in about equal proportion or in rotation, feeding oats in the morning, cracked corn at noon, and wheat at night.

With this grain ration, a mash should be fed. The dry form is most generally fed now, because it saves labor and furnishes a constant supply of food. Thus, the less lively and more timid get their share.

Corn meal, wheat bran, wheat middlings, and finely ground oats are suitable ingredients for a dry mash for laying hens. Any one of these ingredients may be omitted without seriously affecting either the health or the egg yield, though it is an excellent plan to retain the wheat bran on account of its laxative qualities. These ground grains may be mixed in about equal proportion by weight. Add also, unless fed separately, finely ground alfalfa or clover, a level teaspoonful of salt to each dry quart of mash, and for the best egg yield 20 to 25 per cent of beef scraps and bone meal in the proportion of 5 per cent.

Feed your mash in a hopper that does not waste it. If you do not have such, use a shallow box, 15 to 18 inches square and no more than 6 inches high. Cover the mash with one-half inch mesh wire, and just a little smaller than the box.

To keep the hens healthy, provide a dry floor, plenty of dry litter, plenty of dry air, and no draft, keep the house clean, feed well, water regularly, and provide a constant supply of artificial grit, oyster shells, cracked bone, and charcoal.—A. C. Smith, Poultryman, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

PARCHED SWEET CORN.

The sweet corn which was not used in its green state and which has been allowed to ripen on the stalks, should be gathered and dried after the manner of saving seed corn. It is too valuable a food to be allowed to go to waste. When dried it may be parched in a corn-popper. The process takes a little more time than popping corn, and the fire should be a little slower, or the popper held a little farther from the fire. Too hot a fire will scorch the corn before it is thoroughly dried, and the result will be corn which will have a raw taste and which will stick to the teeth. The beginner usually does not give the process time enough. When done just right, the result is a food which is preferred by most people to popped corn.

Several ways of serving the parched corn are practiced by the writer's family. Salted corn is prepared by dipping the parched corn in a strong brine and drying quickly over the fire so that the kernels will not become soaked. A good imitation of peanut butter is made by grinding the parched corn to a fine powder in a food-grinder and adding melted butter and salad dressing. A good filling for sandwiches is also made by mixing the powder with cottage cheese.

For parched corn brittle, spread a layer of parched corn in a buttered plate, and pour over it sugar that has been melted in a saucepan without water. When allowed to harden this is much like the peanut brittle of the candy store. If the sugar is burnt a little in the process of melting, as often happens, just call it caramel instead of brittle.—J. M. Drew, Minnesota College of Agriculture.

BUILDING A CREAMERY

Cost May Range From \$3,000 to \$10,000.

The cost of building and equipment will vary with the kind of material used, the size of the building, and the distance the building materials must be transported. Prices of building materials also vary, which makes it very hard to give accurate figures as to cost hence only general data can be given in this line.

A small creamery building constructed of brick or cement, with cement floors, will cost from \$3,000 to \$4,000, a medium sized building \$5,000 to \$6,000, and a large one from \$7,000 to \$10,000. These prices secure good substantial buildings, constructed so that they are sanitary and practically frost proof, and that is the cheapest building to put up where dairying has come to stay. There are no doubt places, where lumber is cheap and dairying in its infancy, where it may be advisable to build a frame building, and in such places a building can possibly be put up for about half what it costs to build a more substantial one.—James Sorenson, Manager Albert Lea State Creamery.

LIMING LAND.

Lime is an indirect fertilizer, a soil stimulant, and an antidote for soil acidity. It is necessary to the successful growth of clover, alfalfa, beans, cow peas, or other leguminous crops on acid soils, such as occur in places in Mower, Meeker, Stearns, Morrison, Cass, and St. Louis Counties. Although not a plant food, it is called a fertilizer because it stimulates the decay of organic matter and hastens plant growth.

In this State lime is sometimes needed because water passing through the soil has leached or washed out the lime from it, and which was unable to hold it and sometimes because the soil was poorly drained and rich in organic matter which made the land sour or acid in decaying. Acidity may be detected by the use of a little blue litmus paper purchased from your local drug store or furnished by the Soils Chemist, University Farm, St. Paul. The blue paper should be cut into strips half an inch wide and two inches long. Place one end in some moistened soil, and if the soil is acid the blue paper will turn red or pink, either immediately or in the course of five or ten minutes, depending upon the strength of the acid in the soil. Be very careful to keep all moisture except that from the soil away from the paper, as even the sweat from the fingers might turn the blue paper red and make you decide that the soil was acid when it alone would not have turned the paper red. If you will send a small sample to University Farm, you will be notified whether your soil is acid, and needs lime.

If you decide that your soil needs lime, pulverized limestone may be applied at the rate of from two to four tons per acre. It is sometimes scattered by hand from the back of a wagon, sometimes by covering the bottom of the spreader with a thin layer of manure then filling the bed with crushed limestone. The spreader should then be set to distribute as thinly as possible. Limestone and rock phosphate spreaders are made for this special purpose and closely resemble grain drills, although they are less expensive.—W. H. Frazier, Assistant Soils Chemist, University Farm, St. Paul.

LUMPY MILK.

Lumpy-milk is frequently due to infection with germs which gain entrance either through the milk ducts in the teats or are carried to the udder in the circulation from other portions of the body. Excessive feeding with large grain rations seems to have a part in causing the trouble, in some cases. In the absence of competent local veterinary help, give a moderately light, laxative diet, with a reasonable amount of exercise. Reduce the grain feed temporarily at least and give the udder long continued hand rubbing and gentle massage. A mild physic may be very helpful. The dose may be from one-half to one pound of epsom salts, dissolved in three pints of water and given as a drench, the exact dose depending upon the size and condition of the cow.—M. H. Reynolds, Veterinarian, University Farm, St. Paul.

ALFALFA IN MINNESOTA.

The year 1913 has been a very satisfactory year in Minnesota. It has demonstrated beyond any question of doubt that Minnesota can compete successfully with any other state in the Union in the production of corn and alfalfa, the two greatest feed crops known to the agriculturist. In nearly every county in Minnesota from two to four excellent crops of alfalfa have been harvested on from one to several fields. Nearly every farmer in the State has seen alfalfa growing this year, and is thoroughly convinced that he can grow it on his own farm. Those who know the alfalfa plant and the State of Minnesota believe there is no question but that alfalfa can be grown successfully on any land in Minnesota that will grow corn. With corn and alfalfa as an established part of the agriculture of the State, there is little question but that the future for agriculture in Minnesota is bright, and offers as good opportunities for successful farming as are offered in any state.—A. D. Wilson, Extension Superintendent, University Farm, St. Paul.

SHORT COURSE IN HOME ECONOMICS

The women of the farm are this year to be given an opportunity to learn about home making in a four-weeks' short course in Home Economics offered at the College of Agriculture, St. Anthony Park, Minnesota. Instruction will be given in nutrition, cookery, dress making and household sanitation. The course begins January 19 and extends over four weeks.

For particulars address J. M. Drew, Registrar, University Farm, St. Paul.

ECONOMISTS ON COÖPERATION.

Recent Meeting at the University of Minnesota Devoted Entirely to That Subject.

That interest in coöperation is growing is shown by the fact that the Minnesota Academy of Social Sciences devoted its annual meeting, held in Minneapolis on December 4th and 5th, to this subject. Papers were read by Professor C. W. Thompson on the Essentials of Coöperation, Judge Wilson of Stillwater on the Legal Aspects of Coöperation, Professor L. D. H. Weld on Coöperation in Minnesota, Mr. E. A. Webb on Coöperation Abroad, and by "Jim" Caldwell of Lakefield, the Minnesota member of the American Commission, on Community Coöperation. The principal features of the meeting, however, were papers read by George Woodruff of Joliet, Illinois, on Land Credit, George Simon, Western Agent of the Jewish Agricultural Aid Society, on Personal Credit, and George Keen, Secretary of the Coöperative Union of Canada, on The Coöperative Movement. Mr. Woodruff explained the principle of amortization of long-time mortgage loans whereby the farmer borrows money for periods of twenty or thirty years or longer, and pays a comparatively low rate of interest, part of which is applied to the gradual wiping out of the loan itself. Mr. Woodruff's bank in Joliet, Illinois, has begun to do privately what farmers may do coöperatively, and what they have done so successfully in foreign countries.

Mr. Simon explained what has been accomplished in the way of coöperative credit among the Jewish farmers of the United States. Small local credit associations, modeled after the German system, have been in successful operation for several years, and furnish the only instance of coöperative rural credit in the United States.

Mr. Keen's principal interest is in coöperative stores. He contrasted the wonderful success of coöperative retail and wholesale stores in England and Scotland with the backwardness of the United States in this respect. He reviewed the history of the Rochdale system, a plan from the time that it was formed by twenty-eight poor weavers in 1844 to the present day, when it contains nearly 3,000,000 members and does an annual business of over \$600,000,000.

All the papers read at the meeting will be published in the Proceedings of the Minnesota Academy of Social Sciences. For information write to J. S. Young, Secretary, 1120 6th St. S. E., Minneapolis.—L. D. H. Weld, Agricultural Economist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ALFALFA.

"What makes the landscape look so fair;

What blossoms bright perfume the air,

What plant repays the farmer's toil, And will enrich the worn-out soil?

Alfalfa!

"What is the crop that always pays, Which may be cut each forty days, Resisting drought, the frost, and heat;

Whose roots reach down full twenty feet?

Alfalfa!

"What grows in loam, and clay, and sand;

What lifts the mortgage off the land; What crop is cut three times a year, And of never a failure do you hear?

Alfalfa!

"What makes the swine so healthy feel,

And never raise a hungry squeal; The wholesome food that never fails To put three curls into their tails?

Alfalfa!

"What makes all other stock look nice, And brings the highest market price; What fills the milk pails, feeds the calf,

And makes the old cow almost laugh?

Alfalfa!"

BEE KEEPING IN SHORT COURSE

Bee-keepers will have a rare opportunity this winter to learn about the latest and most modern methods of taking care of the honey crop. Professor Francis Jaeger, formerly of St. Bonifacius, and one of the most successful bee-keepers in the State, but now of the College of Agriculture, will give a series of lectures and demonstrations and some practice work in bee-keeping during the Farmers' Short Course which will be held at University Farm January 19 to February 14. Classes in bee keeping will be organized during the first ten days and may be continued during the entire course if desired.

For further information, address J. M. Drew, Registrar, University Farm, St. Paul.

CHEAPER MONEY FOR FARMERS

It now seems rather certain that we are going to have legislation which is designed to give farmers money at terms just as easy as other business men get their loans. Ever since the return of the American Commission which was abroad last summer to study European systems of agricultural credit, a committee has been at work in Washington preparing a report with recommendations for the needs of American farmers. The Department of Agriculture, coöperating with Rural Organization Service, Washington, D. C., is also preparing a report based upon an extensive investigation concerning present conditions of agricultural credit in various parts of the country. With all of this information at hand to guide them, the Congressional Committee which has the question under consideration should be able to work out a plan which will put our farmers on an equal footing with other business interests. That is all any fair-minded man can ask, but we should keep in touch with our congressmen and see to it that the plan finally adopted will fit our needs. If you are not informed on the question, consult your Minnesota Farmers' Institute Annual, No. 26—1913—beginning page 217; also write your Congressman for free copies of the following congressional documents:

62d Congress, 2d Session, Senate Doc. 574.

62d Congress, 3d Session, Senate Doc. 1071.

62d Congress, 3d Session, Senate Doc. 1001.

62d Congress, 2d Session, House Doc. 891.

63d Congress, 3d Session, Senate Doc. 1071.

63d Congress, 3d Session, House Doc. 1435.

63d Congress, Special Session of the Senate, Senate Doc. 5.

63d Congress, 3d Session, Senate Doc. 966.

This office wants your views on this subject. Write to G. P. Warber, Division of Agricultural Economics, University Farm, St. Paul.

HOG CHOLERA NOTES.

Cholera has made its appearance in more than sixty counties in Minnesota.

Almost 900 hogs have been used at the State Serum Plant, at University Farm, this year, in the production and testing of serum.

Reports recently received concerning results of the vaccination of three lots of hogs early in the summer indicate that 1,148 hogs were treated with station serum, the serum-virus (double) method being used, by veterinarians of the State Live Stock Sanitary Board, without a single case of cholera developing.

What appear to be some rather authentic figures gathered in Yellow Medicine County show that about 70 per cent of the hogs were saved in herds where serum was used, the serum coming from several sources, whereas in herds where no serum was used, or where some other treatment was employed, about 83 per cent of the hogs died.

If the hog-raisers of Minnesota could be assured of an adequate supply of serum, there is no reason why this State should not rapidly push forward into the front ranks as a pork-producing state.

More drastic laws should be enacted, and then rigidly enforced, compelling hog owners to properly dispose of the carcasses of hogs dead from cholera, and to strictly observe the quarantine regulations issued by the State Live Stock Sanitary Board.—H. Preston Hoskins, Assistant Veterinarian, University Farm, St. Paul.

CAREFUL FEEDING PAYS.

Dairymen Are Losing Money by Careless Feeding.

From a careful investigation we find that our common cows are capable of producing a much larger yield than is secured from the average common cow in the State. During the past decade we have always had at University Farm, in the dairy herd, a number of common cows; that is, cows with no dairy heredity. The average yield from these common cows, for 23 yearly records, is 5,000 pounds of milk, and 222 pounds of butter; which last, valued at 27 cents per pound, is equal in round numbers to \$60, for butter alone. The average receipt per common cow in the State is \$46.40; which shows that the average cow is yielding \$14 less per annum than she might easily yield if given the same care and feed as are given the cows at University Farm.

Write to the Division of Dairy and Animal Husbandry, University Farm, St. Paul, for their booklet on Feeding Dairy Cows.—T. L. Haecker, and Animal Husbandman, University Farm, St. Paul.