

UNIVERSITY FARM PRESS NEWS

Published Semi-Monthly by the University of Minnesota, Department of Agriculture, Extension Division.

VOL. V

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., DECEMBER 1, 1914

NO. 23

Entered as Second class matter January 15, 1910, at the postoffice at St. Paul, Minn., under the Act of July 16, 1891.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES

December 1-8

Now is a good time to cut and make fire-wood of dead or dying trees on the lawn or in the wind break.

Cabbage and root crops trenched outside need careful watching to see that frost does not get through the covering.

A newspaper wrapped about a geranium or other house plant these cold nights will often save it from being frosted.

Look at the celery stored in the cellar. It may need more water. Do not wet the foliage but apply water to the roots.

Home-grown apples, popcorn, and nuts are much enjoyed at this time of the year. Few farms in Minnesota need to be without any of these if a little attention is given to starting them.

A good method of cleaning the foliage of house plants is frequently to tip the plant bottom-side-up in soapy water. Immerse the plant clear to the pot for fifteen minutes or more, then cleanse in clean water.

When watering house plants it is a good plan to set the pot in water until the soil is thoroughly wet, then drain and do not water again till water is needed. Small amounts of water, applied frequently, often do more harm than good. Water thoroughly when water is needed.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES

December 8-15

A nice close windbreak on the north and west is appreciated by both man and beast these days.

Now is a good time to make a list of shrubs and plants to be obtained for next season's use.

A few sprays of wahoo or of bitter sweet, cut before hard freezing, make an attractive winter bouquet.

Look at the bulbs. Some of them may need more water at this time. The roots should begin to show nicely now.

Narcissus bulbs potted early in the fall may now be brought to light and heat, and should give flowers for Christmas.

This is the beginning of the season's short courses, lectures, etc. Are there a number of good things scheduled for your community? If not, why not?

Home-grown evergreens make good Christmas decorations and the trees are quite easy to raise. Good wreaths may be made of evergreen twigs and pine cones tied to barrel hoops as a support.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

WARM BARNS AID IN MILK-PRODUCTION

Cold weather is an enemy to milk-production. Dairy herds must be well housed and comfortable if they are to give good returns. Warm, well-lighted and well-ventilated barns are essential to good yields. The temperature of a dairy barn should be kept between 40 and 60 degrees.

Minnesota Extension Bulletin No. 10, by George P. Grout, to be had by applying to the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul, tells how to care for cows, both in winter and in summer. Some things it says with regard to winter care are as follows:

"Comfort and contentment are the touchstones of success. When a cow is comfortable and contented, she responds with a flow of milk far in excess of that she gives when she is uncomfortable and irritated.

"In nothing have the Minnesota farmers so sinned against their herds, probably, as in the inadequate shelter provided them against winter's cold and summer's heat.

"It is a mistake to turn cows which are giving milk out into the yards in very cold weather. If so exposed while their stalls are being cleaned or for other reasons, it should be for a brief time only.

"In winter as well as in summer the cow should have good pure water. She should not be required to drink water that her owner would be unwilling to drink. The temperature of a cow's drinking water should not be below 55 degrees".

TUBERCULOSIS WAR, A FIGHT AGAINST WEEDS

Tuberculosis is caused by a small weed growing in the body, says Dr. H. W. Hill, secretary of the Minnesota Public Health Association, in appealing to the farmers of the State to help check the disease. The tuberculosis weed is just one more that the farmer may help to eradicate. Just now he can help by furthering the sales of the Red Cross Christmas seals.

Archbishop Ireland lends his hearty approval to the plan. In a letter to Dr. Hill, the Archbishop says: "I readily concur in your wish that this year there shall be a wide-spread and fruitful disposal of Red Cross Christmas seals. Since the proceeds of the sale are to be devoted to the work of the anti-tuberculosis crusade, the purchase of the seals is a high act of philanthropy and religious charity."

DEAN WOODS FOR CHRISTMAS SEALS

"Send the seals directly to me. I will act as your local campaign manager," said Dean A. F. Woods, of the Minnesota College of Agriculture, to a representative of the Minnesota Public Health Association. "We at University Farm are teaching health and the possibility of escape from preventable diseases to all of our students, and we do not intend to let the educational value of this Christmas seal escape.

"We want disease eradicated from our farm animals, but we are still more impressed with the necessity of eradicating tuberculosis from the homes of the State. Minnesota is wealthy; it has no excuse for not being healthy, and a general and generous cooperation in the great educational campaign of the Minnesota Public Health Association is a definite step emphatically to be approved by all who have the best interests of the State at heart."

ESSAYS ON HEALTH IN RURAL SCHOOLS

"Rhetoric and health are now being combined in many of the rural schools of Minnesota," says Dr. H. W. Hill of the Minnesota Public Health Association. "Teachers are taking advantage of the 'Health Week' campaign to instruct their children in the fundamentals of health and the menace of tuberculosis.

"Nellie Thompson, a small girl of twelve who lives in New Folds, Marshall County, has won a first prize for her best essay on tuberculosis. She told of the discovery of the germs by Dr. Koch, described the prevention and cure of the disease, and the responsibility of the State for the care of patients. Marshall county was the first to hold an essay contest for its school children, designed to teach them the principals of public health and personal hygiene as well as the rudiments of English, and is about to have another. Miss Elizabeth Rankin, Assistant County Superintendent of Schools, is in charge of the contest. Dr. Theo. Bratrud of Warren has offered the prizes. The Minnesota Public Health Association plans similar contests all over the State, in cooperation with farmers' clubs in each county, the county winners to enter a State contest in the spring.

"Part of the plan of this health work in schools is to take the children to see the State exhibit which will be shown in many communities, and give them special instruction on tuberculosis. This plan has been very successful in Glenwood, Starbuck, Middle River, and elsewhere."

THE FARMERS' CLUB

Every farmers' club in Minnesota should hold a Christmas celebration—a real get together, Santa Claus affair, with just heaps of good fellowship. But with all such joy-making should go an easy conscience, and an easy conscience is best attained at Christmas time by doing all one can to see that everybody else around is getting a fair share of the day's joy. It would be a splendid thing if every farmers' club in Minnesota would take it upon itself to see that there was no person in its territory who did not have at least a chance at a joyful Christmas.

For another meeting in December, one of the best plans that could be adopted by a farmers' club would be to discuss plans for the work of the succeeding year. At such a meeting could be formulated a club New Year's resolution as to work to be done in 1915. The year 1915 can be made a success if every farmers' club will get together in advance, decide on a program, and then set itself firmly to the execution of its plan.

Joy and ginger will do more for the success of farmers' clubs in the north-west than any other two things, if mixed in proper proportions.

NATIONAL HONORS FOR MINNESOTA MEN

Two members of the faculty of the Minnesota College of Agriculture were honored in November by being elected to presidencies of national associations. One of these was Andrew Boss, Professor of Agronomy and Farm Management, and the other was W. L. Oswald, Assistant Agricultural Botanist. Mr. Boss was elected president of the American Farm Management Association, and Mr. Oswald president of the Seed Analysts of North America.

These two associations are comparatively new, but each has a mighty big work mapped out. The Farm Management Association is made up of men who are striving earnestly to put farming on a thorough business basis. The Seed Analysts of North America are generals in the war against impure seed. They are seeking to drive out the weed invaders.

Recognition of two Minnesota men by such organizations, is a tribute in the first place to the men and in the next to the character of the country life movement in Minnesota.

BREVITY AS A POLICY

Editors:—The last issue of the Press News contained several rather long "stories". Length is against the policy of the paper, but the importance of the matters discussed seemed to warrant the exception. Hereafter greater effort will be made to condense the matter into the shortest possible space. This should make Press News stories available to a very large number of the editors of Minnesota.

AZOTURIA IS TOO COMMON IN STATE

Azoturia, sometimes called "spinal disease," is altogether too common among Minnesota's horses in winter. This is especially true, since the disease often proves fatal and yet may be prevented with just a little care.

The trouble results from taking horses that have been idle in the warm and sometimes damp air of barns into the cold crisp outer air, and putting them to work.

The symptoms are easily recognizable. A horse comes out of the stable apparently in the best of condition. He is driven but a short distance before he shows signs of lameness or stiffness in his hind legs. He staggers and may fall before he can be unhitched. He perspires freely. The muscles over the loin and hips become rigid and frequently tender, often trembling and twitching.

According to Dr. M. H. Reynolds the best thing for azoturia is prevention. When a horse must remain idle for a few days the grain ration should be reduced. If a horse is very fat he should be fed no grain. Every horse should be given plenty of water and turned out for exercise daily. If the grain ration has not been reduced during a period of idleness in any case, the horse should have a cathartic before being put into harness again. A quart of raw linseed oil 36 hours before hitching is a safe dose. Work should be light for the first day after idleness, as violent exercise is likely to invite an attack.

PROMPTNESS SAVES MANY SICK HOGS

When your hogs get sick, call the doctor. By doing so promptly you can save 20 per cent more than you can if you dally over the matter; that is, if it is cholera that is making your hogs sick.

This is the gist of a suggestion by Dr. M. H. Reynolds, veterinarian of the Minnesota College of Agriculture, based upon some figures recently made public by Dr. Paul Fischer, state veterinarian of Ohio.

Dr. Fischer's figures are based upon observations of 140,000 hogs. Out of 120,000 in infected herds, from 85 to 87 per cent of those given the serum treatment were saved. Of the hogs left untreated, because the disease was too far developed, 64 per cent died. The difference is surely a rather stiff loss due to neglect in not calling the man who could administer serum in time.

The facts in Minnesota are very encouraging. The United States Department of Agriculture reports that only 2.27 per cent of the hogs treated in southern states were lost. Minnesota shows a loss of less than 1 per cent.

About all the tomatoes brought in last fall will have ripened by this time and the vines and rotting fruit should be cleared from the cellar.

LATE BLIGHT IN STORED POTATOES

The true late potato blight returned to Minnesota this summer after an absence of ten years. The crop just harvested, says E. C. Stakman, Assistant Plant Pathologist at the Minnesota College of Agriculture, should be stored with the greatest care, in order that the potatoes may be kept at the lowest temperature possible without freezing and have the most perfect ventilation. This will prevent damage to the stored crop by the blight.

The presence of the blight in potatoes may be recognized by dark brown shallow spots, of irregular shape.

Every potato grower in Minnesota should put away in the cubby hole of his memory the fact that this blight came into Minnesota last summer and that it will reappear next summer unless care is taken in the selection of seed from uninfected fields, and in the treatment of seed with corrosive sublimate. This is just an advance warning. Next spring the Division of Plant Pathology and Botany of the College of Agriculture will carry on a preventive campaign against this disease which is a menace to the good name of Minnesota's potatoes.

THE WARBLE FLY INVADERS MINNESOTA

Warble flies have appeared in Minnesota. The State has been free from this pest of cattle heretofore, though surrounding states have known it. It is said to cause an annual loss in the United States of not less than \$69,000,000. If Minnesota can keep it out, it will mean a very great saving to the farmers.

The fly is a large bee-like insect, of dark color, says C. W. Howard of the Division of Entomology, University Farm. It deposits its eggs on the legs of cattle, where they hatch. The small grubs are then licked off, and secure lodgment in the gutlet. In the early spring tumor-like swellings appear on the backs of the cattle, with the grubs breaking through and falling to the ground to develop into flies a little later.

Farmers should watch for these warbles or swellings on the backs of their cattle, and, when the perforation has become sufficiently large, should squeeze out the grubs and crush them. There are other means of fighting them but this is the surest and most effective.

GASES IN A SILO CAUSE FOUR DEATHS

Silos should be ventilated before being entered. The Journal of the American Medical Association cites a story of four men who were killed by carbon dioxide after entering a silo at the State Hospital, Athens, Ohio, last September. The men entered by a door well up on the side of the silo and jumped down to the surface of the silage six feet below. Two other men who were about to enter the silo a little later, discovered the four in an unconscious state. Assistance was immediately called and though physicians were at hand when the men were taken out, they could not be resuscitated. Accidents of this sort are infrequent, but men who work in silos should be careful to take no risks with gases that may have accumulated over night or during a considerable period in which the silo has been closed.

EDITORIAL FLASHES

To hold our young people on the farm we must make farm life more attractive, as well as the business of farming more remunerative. The school house should be the social unit properly equipped for nourishing and building character, so that the lives of our young people can properly function around it and become supplied with the necessary elements of human thought and activity.—The Herald-Rustler, Badger.

We have in the village a comfortable, convenient, and pleasant school building that would require nothing but some simple provision for lighting to make it a desirable place to hold an evening club program. Several new homes will be built in the vicinity within a year. Why would it not be profitable to spend two or three evenings during the winter studying plans of convenient and economical homes? Why not spend an evening in the study of some live topic relating to public health? Why not get a few farmer's institute lecturers to bring fresh inspiration in dealing with some of the numerous problems of our daily duties? Why not spend a few evenings studying the problems of educating our children? How many will vote yes for a farmer's club?—The Waubun Forum.

Good roads broaden our sympathy, lessen distance and increase our usefulness.—The Clarissa Independent.

FARMERS TO STUDY SEED-TESTING ART

Seed-testing will be taught with thoroughness during Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week at University Farm, St. Paul, January 4-9. The work in seed-testing will be especially useful for seed men and dealers, though farmers interested in the problems of pure seed will be more than welcome. The laboratory method rather than that of the class-room will be used. The work has been subdivided as follows:

- Uniform methods of making tests.
- Uniform methods of making germination tests.
- Seed legislation in Minnesota.
- Educational work in seed testing.
- Reports from the Washington meeting of seed analysts.

SEEKS ADDRESSES OF SCHOOL GRADUATES

Where are the graduates and former students of the Minnesota School of Agriculture, University Farm, St. Paul? More than 4,000 students have attended the school, taking regular work, and, besides, 1,615 have taken the winter short course. A large majority of these students have gone back to the farms of Minnesota, but just where they are is something J. M. Drew, Registrar of the School, would like to know, in order to complete a series of maps of the counties of the State showing just where every graduate and former student is. Such maps will be valuable as an aid to the Extension Division in carrying on its work throughout the State.

Therefore, if you are a former student of the School of Agriculture, please send to Mr. Drew, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn., a postal card, giving—

Your name in full.

The year or years you attended the School.

Whether you took regular or short course.

Your year of graduation, if you were graduated.

Name of county in which you live.

Name of township.

Name of your postoffice.

Number of section, township, and range in which your home lies.

Do it now!

WOMAN WINS FAME AS BUTTER-MAKER

Minnesota has a woman who has opened up a new avenue of activity for women—that of professional butter-making. This woman is Mrs. J. W. McLaughlin, of Owatonna, who was for six years sole manager of the Elgin Cooperative Creamery, at Elgin, Minn. Mrs. McLaughlin has won many coveted prizes. She captured first prize in the hand separator class at the State Butter Show, at Northfield, and twice in succession won second prize in the open classes at the Interstate Butter Show at Mason City, Iowa. Her name has gone abroad through the country, and as a result she was asked to address butter-makers at the National Dairy Show in Chicago, in October, on "Operating a Successful Creamery."

Mrs. McLaughlin is enrolled this year as a student in the Dairy School at University Farm, the first woman ever to take work at this school. She says she is at the School because she wishes to learn the very latest and best in butter-making methods.

FEED TO BE HIGH; TEST YOUR COWS

Feed is going to be higher than usual this winter, unless all signs fail. It is, therefore, doubly important that the farmer keeping dairy cows should be sure that his cows are giving him more than value received for what they eat. The way to be sure of this is to have scales and a Babcock tester.

This is only one of the reasons why farmers should test their cows for quantity and quality of product, says W. A. McKerron, organizer of cow-testing associations for the Extension Division of the Minnesota College of Agriculture.

Other reasons for cow-testing are:

It enables the farmer to eliminate cows that do not pay for their board.

It saves many a good cow from the shambles.

It is an encourager of good feeding and good care.

It gives the farmer an opportunity to build up a good producing herd.

It increases one's interest in dairying as a business rather than as a means of labor merely.

In short, it is plain common sense.

Well grown ferns or flowering plants make good Christmas presents. They may be more highly prized if grown by the giver.