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ORCHARD AND GARDEN

January 15-22.

Test all vegetable and grain seeds now. Pansy seed should be sown in the greenhouse in January.

Too high temperatures and moisture about seedlings will cause damping-off.

Go over the root crops in the cellar and throw out all material showing decay.

Many market gardeners are growing geraniums and other bedding plants as a side-line.

A good collection of dahlias will look well in the garden this summer. Better make the selections now.

Are the apple trees protected by wire or boards on the south side? If not, they are likely to be injured by sunscald.

After the bulbs are through flowering they may be set aside and planted out as soon as the ground can be worked.

Send for seed and plant catalogs, study them, and get the planting list ready. It will soon be time to start many varieties.

Don't keep the seed bed too moist. Usually one thorough watering, when the seed is sown, is sufficient until the plants break ground.

Minnesota is one of the important potato states. Thousands of bushels of early potatoes are shipped south each year for seed. Better cultivation, grading, and care of the crop will not only hold this market but increase it.

Large onion bulbs of the varieties like Denia and Giant Gibraltar are obtained by growing the seed in the greenhouse or hotbed in February and transplanting to good rich garden soil. Thorough cultivation must be given throughout the season.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

January 22-29.

Lettuce for use in hotbeds should be sown now.

It is time to get hotbed material in shape for use next month.

The Progressive is one of the best, if not the very best, of the autumn bearing strawberries.

Many varieties of seeds are going to be scarce this year. It will be well to have the seed order in early.

For the home garden choose vegetables of best quality. Quantity is not the important thing.

Most vegetables need rich, well-worked soil. Having this, and adding thorough cultivation and care, anyone can have a number-one garden.

Tramp the manure in the hotbed until it is solid, then put the glass on and leave it a few hours before putting the soil in. This will make heating sure.

Swiss chard should be included in the seed order. It makes good "greens" and is a rapid grower. It may be sown at the same time as early cabbage and transplanted to frames or field.

Don't purchase the lowest-priced seed. In nine cases out of ten the highest-priced seed is by far the cheapest. The seed doesn't cost much, after all, in proportion to the labor put on plants, once they start. A full crop is important, and possible only with good seed.

Harold Simmons, an apple grower at Howard Lake, has averaged \$3.27 per barrel for Duchess apples for three years. The cost of barrels, spraying, picking, etc., was 66 cents per barrel. The freight and commission was 69 cents, making a total cost of \$1.35 to raise and market the crop. Wealthy apples cost him \$1.44, and he received \$3.78 per barrel. He thinks the profits from his orchard are commensurate with the care he takes. Orchard is his main work, not a side line. He does his own pruning and supervises carefully his spraying and picking.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

WINTERING IDLE HORSES

Horses should not be confined to the barn during the winter on a liberal supply of grain. It is far better to "rough" them through the cold months. They should be given the run of the yard or lot during the day. This should be provided with a protected shed, one that is thoroughly dry and well provided with bedding. While nature does her part and protects the horse with a heavy coat of hair during the cold months, the shed is necessary in order to afford the necessary shelter and protection against rains, snow, and cold winds. Winter winds come mostly from the north and northwest, and the shed should be so situated and constructed as to give the proper protection from this quarter.—Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

HOW TO FIGHT SCARLET FEVER

"Schools should not be closed in order to control scarlet fever," says Dr. I. J. Murphy of the Minnesota Public Health Association. "Scarlet fever is altogether too prevalent among Minnesota school children. It can be controlled best, not by closing schools, but by supervising exposed individuals, and discovering the mild and atypical cases which are spreading the disease. To accomplish this the intelligent cooperation of parents and teachers with the local and state health departments is essential. "Parents and especially teachers should be familiar with the symptoms and be on the lookout for mild and concealed cases of scarlet fever. There may be only a slight and transient rash, which may pass unnoticed. As a rule there is nausea and vomiting, redness or soreness of the throat and some headache. The attack may simulate simple tonsil-

lant in smaller towns will have a prominent place. More time will also be given to lectures on textiles, groceries, leather, rubber goods and hardware. Men especially qualified to speak on these subjects will be present to call attention to points which merchants should consider both in buying and selling.

Buying, pricing, the cost of doing business, credits, collections, and accounting also will receive full attention.

The Retail Furniture Dealers' Association, which will be in session while the course is in progress, has made arrangements with the University to attend several lectures. The evenings will be taken up with illustrated lectures of a popular and profitable nature. Friday evening, those in attendance will take dinner at University Farm, after dinner attending a play to be presented by University students. The course will be in the Main Engineering Building, easily reached by taking a St. Paul-Minneapolis car to Church Street. The fee for the course is \$3.

REDUCE EXPENSES; INCREASE PROFITS

Reducing farm expense is the easiest way to increase farm profits on many farms. Good crops and good live stock alone cannot make farming profitable. In closing up the leaks in farm expenses the cost of horse labor and machinery should be carefully considered. Cost-accounting records in Minnesota show that the maintenance cost of an average work horse is \$100 annually, and that the maintenance cost of machinery is 15 per cent or more.

Two 160-acre farms in southern Minnesota forcibly illustrate how much higher horse labor and machinery costs may be on one farm than on another. The first of these farms had \$425 worth of machinery and five work horses; the other \$1,840 worth of machinery and seven work horses. These farms had equally good crops and each raised one colt. The annual cost of machinery and horse labor, calculated

FARMERS' CLUBS HAVE ORGANIZED STATE FEDERATION

A state federation of farmers' clubs, bearing the name "Federation of Minnesota Farmers' Clubs," was organized during Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week at University Farm, St. Paul. Representatives of practically every county in the state and of more than 200 farmers' clubs participated in the meeting at which the organization was effected.

The aim of the new organization is broad and promises much for the rural life of the state. Something of the scope of the work before the federation may be seen from the following extracts from its constitution:

"The object of this federation is to develop better agricultural methods in Minnesota, and to foster and promote social, educational, and business interests beneficially connected with such developments as rural credits, buying, selling, legislation, etc. It shall serve, not dominate, the local clubs, and shall encourage and promote, not transact, cooperative business. It shall act as a bureau of service, affording means for the interchange of ideas for facilitating local endeavor, and for securing ends which may be of benefit to the farmers of the state at large.

"The active membership of the federation shall consist exclusively of active farmers and farm home-makers, not engaged in any other business, chosen as delegates, one for one year and another for two years, and thereafter one each year for two years, from each county of the state in which there are farmers' clubs.

"The officers of this federation shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer, and a board of directors composed of these officers, excepting the secretary, and one member from each congressional district in which there are farmers' clubs. No person may be elected to any office who is not a member of a farmers' club in the federation.

"Officers of this organization becoming candidates for political, county, state or national, office, will automatically forfeit their official position in this federation from the date of their declaration of candidacy for office."

The officers of the new federation are: President, L. H. Buggbee, Carlton; vice-president, Walter E. Whipple, Elk River; treasurer, Sam Hammerbeck, Little Falls. The board of directors is to consist of the officers and a member from each congressional district. The representatives from the several congressional districts are as follows: First district, Edward Kirchenbecker, Owatonna; second, Jens Johnson, Lake Crystal; third, A. L. Sayers, Lakeville; fourth, Mrs. I. E. Richardson, New Brighton; sixth, J. R. Blackburn, Pine River; seventh, R. E. Haug, Broton; eighth, Mrs. H. L. Chamberlain, Laurel; ninth, William A. Nelson, Clearbrook; tenth, D. O. Mecklenberg, Anoka.

The secretary, who has no vote as a member of the executive committee, will be elected by the board of directors.

SELF-FED PIGS SHOW LIKE TASTES

As interest increases in the use of self-feeders for swine new questions arise. One such question is this, "Allow a bunch of pigs to select their own rations and eat at will; do the different pigs select similar rations?"

To secure some information on this question, we fed last summer at University Farm, ten pigs on individual self-feeders. In other words, each pig had his own pen and his own self-feeder. No other pigs ate with him or slept with him. Five of the pigs were farrowed in March and five in May. All were kept on self-feeders from July 10 until November 15; a total of 128 days. At the close of the test the March pigs were 237 days old and the May pigs 191 days of age. The five March pigs averaged 287.1 pounds each and the May pigs 248.4 pounds each.

The average daily gain for the five March pigs was 1.8 pounds each, and for the May pigs was 1.5 pounds. The March group produced 100 pounds of gain for each 392.4 pounds of grain, while the May group consumed 392.54 pounds of grain for each 100 pounds of pork. For the entire test the ration selected by the March pigs contained 88.26 per cent of shelled corn, 9.02 per cent of tankage and 2.72 per cent of shorts. The May pigs took 86.99 per cent of shelled corn, 10.82 per cent of tankage and 2.19 per cent of shorts. Each had available shelled corn, shorts, and tankage, each fed separate, with water to drink. No other grains and no pasture or milk was available to them.

The individual rations as taken by each pig are not yet available, but will be published later.—R. C. Ashby, Assistant Animal Husbandman, Minnesota Experiment Station.

THE LAST TIE

The Emporia Gazette

He was no more ragged, dirty or unkempt than the dozens of other wanderers who come to any newspaper office every year to beg an old paper. He was, outwardly, just another of the shifting, floating type of wanderers who frequent the Kansas towns, on the way to and from the construction camps. But a handful of city dailies did not dismiss him.

"I wonder if you get the paper from Kirksboro, Ill., here," he asked. Then, half-explanatory, half-apologetic, he said, "You see, I used to live there."

Someone went through the pile of exchanges, and found the paper he sought, the Kirksboro Sun, just an ordinary country weekly, full of bad type, and badly written news. The visitor's thanks were more profuse for this paper than for all the others, and he went out.

That little country paper was the last tie that held a wandering casual laborer to a place he once called home. Relatives and friends who once lived there had gone, or disowned him as worthless, and a failure. But the old weekly, with its neighborhood gossip of marriages, deaths, births, crops, and sickness, brought him back again to memories of the old home town. Some day, the little weekly may draw him home. He will make a new start, and the days of his wandering will be past.

3-WEEKS' COURSE FOR RETAIL MEN

Out of the one week's Short Course for Merchants offered by the General Extension Division of the University of Minnesota last year and year before, has come a demand for a more extended course. This demand will be met this year by a three weeks' course in merchandising, beginning January 31, immediately at the close of this year's one week's course. The fee will be \$10. Full particulars will be furnished on application to the General Extension Division of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

KEEPING UP CASH INCOME IN WINTER

What to do to keep cash flowing toward the farm through the winter months is something of a problem. Andrew Boss of the Department of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota, says the problem is largely one of productive labor; labor that through the winter will bring in cash returns. "There is plenty to do," says Mr. Boss, "but unfortunately much of the work is not productive. The care of stock horses, repairing and painting machinery and buildings, cutting firewood, and other similar tasks, while necessary, offer no possibility for cash returns.

"Every farmer should manage to have at least one or two profit-bearing enterprises going during the winter season. One of the chief reasons why dairymen succeed is because they are obliged to put time on the care of their cows which daily give a market product. Winter dairying pays best because help is cheapest and the market is usually higher than in the summer. Feeding fattening stock, caring for hogs, curing and testing seed grain and getting out wood or timber for sale are other forms of profitable winter work.

"What have you to do that will bring in cash between now and April 1?"

1,250 FARMERS AND HOME-MAKERS AT UNIVERSITY FARM

More than 1,250 farmers and home-makers attended Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week at University Farm, St. Paul, January 3 to 8. The attendance was just about double that of a year ago and the interest and enthusiasm were in proportion.

As a result of the success of this year, the people at University Farm are already planning for next year's program, and they express the belief that the attendance will again be doubled, bringing to the class work and the various conferences at least 2,500 men and women from Minnesota's farms and Minnesota's homes. At the final assembly of the week several hundred farmers and farm women, by generous applause, assented to the request of President George E. Vincent of the University, that they collaborate with the University in bringing the attendance at Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week next year up to 2,500.

MINNESOTA BEES TO BE IMPROVED

The Division of Bee Culture of the Minnesota Experiment Station, next summer, will help bee-keepers of the state to requeen their apiaries by sending out queen bees for breeding purposes. Francis Jager, at the head of the division, has just decided upon this course.

Mr. Jager says that nearly all bees in the state at present are hybrids and are hard to manage. Moreover, in many parts of the state bees have been in-bred for years, which makes the introduction of new blood a necessity. For these reasons and from a desire to improve the quality of Minnesota bees, Mr. Jager is offering to send out queens for breeding purposes.

The queens to be sent out will be leather colored, Italian queens of choicest stock. A charge of 50 cents for each queen will be made, and not more than three queens will be sent to any one bee-keeper. Orders with remittances must be sent to the cashier, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota. Orders will be filled in the order in which they are received.

COMPETING WITH MAIL-ORDER MEN

How to enable the local merchant to meet mail-order competition will be one of the problems to receive special consideration at the Merchants' One-Week Short Course to be offered by the General Extension Division of the University of Minnesota, beginning Monday, January 24.

No problem is of greater interest to the retail merchant in outlying districts than competition from mail-order houses. The subject at the coming short course will be discussed by H. L. Wildey of Graettinger, Iowa, who aroused so much interest last year, and by H. S. McIntyre, editor of the Twin City Commercial Bulletin. Mr. McIntyre will illustrate his talk with an exhibit of merchandise bought from mail-order houses, and will show that similar articles may be bought through regular channels at prices which should enable local merchants to meet mail-order figures.

The desirable features of former courses will be retained, but particular attention will be given to new developments.

Advertising and salesmanship as applied to the problems of the retail mer-