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ORCHARD AND GARDEN

December 15 to 22

Butternut and walnut trees will grow to advantage in most of our windbreak thickets.

Encourage the children to study the plants and animals in your vicinity. When they know more about them they will not be so ready to kill or destroy them.

Be sure the southwest side of the young apple or shade tree is covered to protect it from sunscald this winter. Wire, boards, paper or cornfodder are good materials to use.

Small evergreens are often taken up and put in tubs in the late fall for use as Christmas trees. They may be replanted when they have served their purpose as Christmas trees.

Potted plants, such as cyclamen, ferns, primulas, double or single petunias, palms, or rubber plants, make excellent Christmas gifts. Pots of bulbs, such as tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths, are also often used.

Good Christmas wreaths may be made by tying small branches of Douglas, or other spruce, firmly about a barrel hoop. Sprays of ruscus or other colored material, and pine cones may be worked in for color.

Birds like suet, bread crumbs, and pieces of nut meats at this time of year. Build a small feeding box near one of the house windows or in a tree and keep a record of the different birds that eat from it. It will prove interesting to the children, as well as those who are older.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

December 22 to 29

Watch the apple trees for evidences of the work of rabbits or mice.

It is said that sphagnum moss in the bottom of a vase used for cut flowers will keep the water fresh for some time.

Have the trees and shrubs been well mulched? Mulching will help carry them through the winter to better advantage.

Now is a good time to plan next year's vegetable and flower garden. Use a part of the garden for perennial flowering plants.

If onions are frozen in storage they should remain frozen until used. Freezing and thawing will soften them enough to make them unsalable.

Bulletin 766, United States Department of Agriculture, is entitled "The Common Cabbage Worm." Send to the Division of Publications, Washington, D. C., for it.

When the chrysanthemums are through flowering they should be set back in a cool place until about the first of February. After that time cuttings for next year's use may be taken.

The calla lily makes a good winter house plant. Some of the market gardeners who have greenhouses force it in quantities for market. The bulbs must be "rested" or kept dormant several months each summer.

Has any effort been made to plant the roadsides in your vicinity with trees or shrubs? Well planted trees add to the comfort of the travelers on the highway. Do not plant too close—say 60 or 75 feet apart—and use elm, maple or other long-lived trees. Sometimes sumac or other shrubby will hold a steep bank from washing, as well as add to the beauty of the drive. Why not plant parts of our roadsides with suitable native shrubs or perennials. The writer of these notes would appreciate information of any roadside planting of trees or other plants in Minnesota.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ORCHARDS MAY BE PRUNED IN WINTER

Fruit growers do not need to wait until spring to prune their orchards, says W. G. Brierley of the division of horticulture at University Farm. Results at University farm show little or no difference in the growth and maturity of the wood where pruning has been done any time between November and May.

If the usual care is taken to make the cuts close to the main trunk or branches no stubs will be left to die and decay, though the covering of wounds with a white lead and oil paint or with common grafting wax warned to the consistency of cold molasses will give added protection.

Moderate pruning is better than heavy pruning or regular.

HEALTH EXPERT FOR ANY TOWN

"A medical health expert will be available for any community of this state for as long or short a time as the community may wish."

This announcement has just been made by Dr. I. J. Murphy of the Minnesota Public Health association.

"Many communities," says Dr. Murphy, "cannot afford a physician through the whole year, but can afford one temporarily for a complete sanitary survey, school supervision, infant welfare work, or all of these combined, for as long or short a time as they may be able to pay for the services."

"At first this service was offered only to towns selling a certain number of Red Cross Christmas seals. Later, however, the demand for such services came in from other communities. This led the Minnesota Public Health association to decide to allow any community to have a physician, if it was able to pay for the services. Many towns will win this service by selling Christmas seals. Other communities wishing the service should write at once to the Minnesota Public Health Association, Old Capitol, St. Paul, Minn."

HOT LUNCH, NEED OF RURAL SCHOOL

"Warm lunches for the children in rural schools are badly needed. In fact the need of such lunches is much greater in the country districts than it is in the city schools where the children often go home to a warm lunch," says Dr. I. J. Murphy of the Minnesota Public Health association.

"This does not mean that the whole lunch need be prepared at school. The warm dishes should simply supplement the material ordinarily provided. It makes the meal more appetizing. It also allows the teachers to see that the children get proper food. The principal meal on the farm is usually served at noon; the children miss this, unless they get the warm lunch at school."

"The cost for all of the equipment need not exceed \$10 to \$12."

"Baskets and other receptacles that cannot be cleaned with boiling water should not be used by children in carrying lunches to school."

GRADE ROOT CROPS ON TIMBER FARMS

To meet the feed situation in northern Minnesota, M. J. Thompson, superintendent of the Northeast Experiment Station at Duluth, suggests the grading of rutabagas, the feeding of the tops and poor grades to stock, and the marketing of the choicer grades, if possible, not until late in the winter when the market usually advances.

This suggestion is made in answer to the question especially pertinent this year whether to feed roots or grain.

One pound of grain is usually regarded as equivalent to from four to nine pounds of roots. This comparison, however, Mr. Thompson says, ignores the succulence of the roots so essential to the health and productivity of animals. Likewise, in the northern Minnesota situation, it leaves out of consideration the cost of exchange. That is, of hauling the roots to the market and of hauling the grain back. Moreover, the yield of rutabagas last fall ranged from two to four tons.

Therefore, even with rutabagas at from \$17 to \$25 a ton, Mr. Thompson feels that the plan should be considered.

As a general result of the year's work at the Northeast Station, Mr. Thompson recommends a good acreage of hay and roots annually on every timber land farm.

THREE VERY VALUABLE BULLETINS REPRINTED

Reprints of Minnesota Farmers' Library Bulletins 17, 38 and 53, have been made. Bulletin No. 17 deals with the farm vegetable garden and with canning; bulletin 38 with potato growing in Minnesota and varieties; and bulletin 53, with sausage making.

Copies of these bulletins may be had by addressing the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

WILL CONSIDER POULTRY SELLING

A conference of those interested in poultry raising and marketing will be a feature of Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week at University Farm, St. Paul, January 1-6.

The conference will take place Tuesday afternoon, January 2.

Every farmers' club is invited and urged to send a delegate, and any other groups who wish representation will find their delegates altogether welcome.

The rubber and aspidistra plants are two of the hardiest foliage plants for house culture. Neither one has flowers.

GRAIN IS NEEDED IN CALF'S RATION

A grain ration of equal parts corn, oats, and bran, with a small quantity of oil meal should be provided for the calf, says H. H. Kildee of the Minnesota Experiment Station. Even when only a few weeks old a calf will begin to eat grain, and nibble at hay. It is best to feed cracked corn at first and later shelled corn. Whole oats are better than ground oats for the young calf. Clover hay, or mixed clover and alfalfa, is superior to alfalfa alone, as alfalfa alone is too rich for the kidneys and digestive tract.

Calves dropped in the fall and early winter will do well on pasture the first summer, if provided with some grain and shade, while calves dropped in the spring or early summer are much better off when properly cared for in the barn during the first summer.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE LISTS ARE NOT FULL

The secretary of the Minnesota Farmers' Institutes, University Farm, St. Paul, announces that the schedule of institutes for the winter has not yet been completed. There is room for additional institutes. Communities wishing to hold such an institute should advise him at once. Applications from towns that were not on the institute or short course schedule last winter are especially desirable, and such places will be given preference over towns recently visited by institute or short course workers.

COUNTY IS RICHER FOR AGENT'S WORK

Clay county has an answer for the question, does the county agent pay? The answer is P. E. Clement and an increased potato crop worth to Clay county farmers several hundred thousand dollars a year.

This sounds big, but on twelve demonstration plots this last year Mr. Clement has shown an average gain of more than thirty-two bushels to the acre over field yields. The same kind of thing that Mr. Clement has done this year on his demonstration plots has been done by scores and scores of farmers in Clay county. It does not take a great many acres with an extra thirty or forty bushels to the acre at present prices to run into "big money."

In further support of the worth of the county agent, a member of the agricultural extension staff of the University of Minnesota has received from a Clay county farmer a letter saying that by adopting the county agent's system of potato growing, he this year made a gain of at least \$800. He did this by selecting and treating his seed potatoes. His field gave an average yield of 215 bushels to the acre.

IS THE PUREBRED SIRE PROFITABLE?

A nice little problem in farm arithmetic arose when a farmer asked the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota recently whether it would pay him, with ten cows, to invest \$150 in a purebred sire six months old. The answer was worked out somewhat as follows by W. L. Cavert:

A purebred bull six months old, purchased for \$150, would doubtless sell for from \$90 to \$100 for beef when about two years old. This would mean a depreciation of \$50, or \$25 a year.

The average investment in a grade bull is perhaps \$50. The average amount invested in a \$150 bull kept two years with a depreciation of \$25 a year would be \$125. The difference against the purebred is \$75. Six per cent interest on \$75 is \$4.50.

A young grade bull would increase in value rather than depreciate. The increase might be \$20 a year.

Assuming that the two bulls would cost the same amount for feed and care, the total difference in cost each year would be \$49.50 (\$25 plus \$4.50 plus \$20), to be charged against the purebred.

If one raised five heifer calves each year, this would mean an added cost of about \$10 each; if ten such calves, about \$5 each.

But—a well graded cow will usually sell for from \$10 to \$50 more than a cow of mixed breeding. Furthermore, well bred, high grade cows are usually worth much more for one's own use than is indicated by the difference in the market price.

TRACTION ENGINEERING BULLETIN IS NOW READY

The bulletin of the traction engineering course to be given at University Farm May 1 to June 1, 1917, has been issued. Young men wishing to prepare themselves for the handling of farm tractors and other farm engines will find the bulletin of interest.

Copies may be had by addressing the Secretary, University Farm, St. Paul.

FARMERS' CLUBS OF STATE WILL HOLD BIG MEET

Minnesota's great group of 1250 farmers' clubs will hold its second annual meeting at University Farm, St. Paul, January 2, 3, and 4, and during this time will make a special study of the subject of farm loans under the new federal farm loan act.

The meeting will be held during Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week, which is expected to bring at least 2,000 to University farm, so that the farmers' club group, or the Minnesota State Federation of Farmers' Clubs as it is known, will be very largely attended.

L. H. Bugbee, president of the federation, however, has issued a call to every farmers' club in the state to send at least one representative. In this call he says that the first year's work of the organization has pointed out great possibilities of development, and that the meeting should be largely attended in order that the federation may take steps to meet its opportunities, and further that it may make a careful study of the new federal farm loan act. The call closes with the words:

"Every farmers' club should take an interest in this coming meeting."

CHILD WELFARE WEEK IS NEAR

A child welfare week will be held at University Farm, between Minneapolis and St. Paul, from January 1 to January 6, 1917, and will have the support of the Housewives' league, Minneapolis, and the Mothers' club of St. Paul. It is expected to attract mothers from all parts of Minnesota.

The child welfare week at University Farm will be but one feature of Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week in Minnesota's greatest rural life and home-gathering conference.

Mrs. Grace R. Darling of Milwaukee, an authority on the subject of child welfare, will be the principal speaker, but will be assisted by others from University Farm and the twin cities.

Other subjects for women to be discussed during the week will be the home care of the sick, household management, the preparation of foods, textiles and clothing, tastes in dress and in house furnishing.

Between 200 and 300 attended similar meetings a year ago. This year the number is expected to be double that of last year.

STATE'S POTATO MEN WILL MEET

Questions of vital interest to potato growers of Minnesota will be taken up at the second annual meeting of the Minnesota Potato Growers Association, to be held at University Farm, January 3, 1917, in connection with Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week. A potato exhibit is also being planned.

Potato diseases and their control will be discussed by G. R. Bisby, assistant plant pathologist, Minnesota experiment station. The degeneration of varieties will be discussed by Richard Wellington, assistant horticulturist, Minnesota experiment station. Results of seed plot demonstrations will be set forth by K. A. Kirkpatrick, county agent of Hennepin county. If nothing intervenes, C. T. More of the United States Department of Agriculture will give a talk on potato marketing. A special conference on potato seed certification will be led by Dr. E. C. Stakman, head of the section of plant pathology of the Minnesota experiment station.

For the exhibit, every potato grower in the state is urged to send in samples, consisting of one peck (15 pounds) of any standard variety recommended by the association. These should be shipped to A. G. Tolaas, University Farm, St. Paul.

FARM BUREAUS TO CONFER AGAIN

The value of the county agent and the farm bureau is being investigated. A committee of investigation, consisting of Dean A. F. Woods of the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota; A. D. Wilson, director of the extension division of the same department; and F. E. Balmer, state leader of county agents, was appointed by county farm bureau officers in session at University Farm, October 24. This committee is at work and will report at a special conference of farm bureau workers called to meet at University farm during Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week, January 1-6, 1917.

The conference will be held Friday, January 5, at 1:30 p. m. in room 307, Administration building. Farm bureau officers and members, county commissioners and others interested are invited.

Even the Jack pine may be used with good results as a Christmas tree.

STATE'S GREAT RURAL MEETING DRAWING NEAR

A meeting of meetings is a good description of Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week to be held at University Farm, between Minneapolis and St. Paul, January 1 to January 6. Twenty-five different organizations interested in some phase of rural life will meet at University farm during the week. By this plan they give their members a chance to participate in their several sessions and at the same time to profit by the lectures and demonstrations which are regular features of the short course.

Among the important organizations or groups which will hold meetings sometime during the week are as follows:

- Minnesota State Federation of Farmers' Clubs.
- Minnesota Livestock Breeders' association.
- Minnesota Crop Improvement association.
- Housewives' league.
- Mothers' clubs.
- Poultry associations and clubs.
- Poultry raisers.
- Farm Management, Farm Crops, and Seed Grain men.
- Minnesota Swine Breeders' association.
- Minnesota Sheep Breeders' association.
- Minnesota Horse Breeders' association.
- Potato growers.
- Small-Fruit growers.
- Creamery managers.
- Vegetable growers.
- Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' association.
- Hereford Breeders' association.
- Gurnsey Breeders' association.
- Red Polled Breeders' association.
- Ayrshire Breeders' association.
- Jersey Breeders' association.
- Garden Flower society.
- Farm bureau members.

Splendid evening features will include addresses by Cyril G. Hopkins of the University of Illinois, President George E. Vincent of the University of Minnesota, and C. W. Thompson of the United States Department of Agriculture; also a rural life drama known as "Partners," an evening's consideration of the problems of community recreation, and an evening devoted to child welfare.

At the closing session of the week, the University will confer certificates of merit upon men who have rendered distinguished service to the rural life of Minnesota.

The committee in charge looks for an attendance of not less than 2,000.

All Minnesota is invited.

ALL MINNESOTA WILL BE THERE

All parts of Minnesota will be represented at the next meeting of the All Minnesota Development Association.

The reason is that the people of the state and the various organizations of the state see the importance of the work the association is doing. They are interested in the great problem of drainage and flood control and in the scarcely less momentous problems of a state soil survey, the community purchase of livestock on the Ashland plan, rural credits, a possible revision of the tax laws to prevent the burdening of the man who makes improvements on his land, and the introduction of one or two years of college work in the state's high schools.

The coming meeting—Thursday and Friday, January 18 and 19—will be held at the Old Capitol, St. Paul.

ACCOUNT SYSTEMS FOR LIVESTOCK SHIPPERS

"Systems of Accounts for Livestock Shipping Associations," is the title of Bulletin No. 403 of the United States Department of Agriculture. This bulletin should be of interest to Minnesota's many associations of the kind named.

Blister Rust Report

The state entomologist, F. L. Washburn, has issued in printed form a special report on the white pine blister rust in Minnesota in 1916. The report appears as Circular No. 40 from the entomology department. Copies may be had by addressing F. L. Washburn, University Farm, St. Paul.

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE