

UNIVERSITY FARM PRESS NEWS

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

VOL. VIII

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., JANUARY 1, 1917

NO. 1

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

January 1 to 8

Send for seed catalogs. The Progressive is said to be the best shipper among the autumn-bearing strawberries.

Do not put too much water on plants in cold dark weather or let them become dry or suffer for want of water.

Grape fruit seed planted thickly in a pot or pan of soil soon germinate, and the rather slow-growing stems make a pretty table decoration.

Plan the garden and order the seeds needed for it. Remember some seeds will be hard to get and those who order early are more likely to receive what they want.

Watch for rabbits in the orchard. Get the rabbit before it gets your trees. Tramp the snow well around each tree to discourage mice working under the crust.

According to experiments carried on at the North Dakota experiment station, so-called pedigree strawberries and trees are no better than good, well selected common stock. Don't pay high prices for pedigreed nursery stock.

Sometimes in order to get the best growth from a tree it must be fed by cultivating well-rotted manure into the soil or by using liquid manure during the best growing season.

One of the quickest and easiest grown annual vine is the wild cucumber. It is difficult to make the seed germinate and often it is grown in autumn or in a box of soil late in winter and put out doors to freeze and thaw. Once established, it will self sow each season, giving an abundance of plants. It must not be allowed to become dry or the lower leaves will turn yellow and drop.

Those who failed to attend the winter meeting of the Horticultural Society December 5-8 missed a very interesting meeting, and lost an opportunity to get much valuable information and an inspiration. The meetings of all the auxiliaries were well attended and full of good things. The fruit, vegetable, and flower exhibits were small but were of fine quality.—Leroy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

January 8 to 15

Propagation of carnations and chrysanthemums may be begun in the greenhouse late this month and next.

Keep greenhouse soil sweet. Sometimes it is well to add a little lime to freshen it.

Pansy seed for early plant should be sown in the greenhouse now. Use only good strains of seed.

Apples are a good conditioner for livestock. Try feeding them when you have an over supply.

Liquid manure is a good fertilizer to apply to peonies during their growing season.

When planting a commercial orchard, set enough trees of a kind to sell by the carload or in large quantities. It does not pay to potter with small lots of many varieties.

Why not advertise winter vegetables more? Well written, attractive advertisements would, without question, sell much more of this sort of produce in its season.

Don't plant peonies deep. Two inches is enough. If necessary, more soil may be put over the roots as they grow. There is more danger of getting the plants too deep than too shallow.

Peonies are much better if set in the fall than in the spring. Some growers very strongly discourage any spring setting, as it takes at least a year for the plant to recover.

Peonies should not be moved early in the fall before they have ripened their wood. They should not be set before September 20 and may be set as late as the ground can be worked.

Don't cover peonies with manure over winter. A light straw mulch is good on newly set plants, but established plants are better off without a manure mulch in winter. Put it on during the growing season.

Is that bird shelter and feeding station working well? Birds like suet and bread crumbs. They will soon make regular trips where these are to be found, once they begin.

The Salome and Superb apples were added to the list for trial at the meeting of the horticultural society. Patten Greening was taken from the commercial list, because it does not seem to be satisfactory as a commercial variety.

Strawberries should be planted on clean, new land, which has been under cultivation for two or three years and is free from weeds and insects. It should be well fertilized preferably the year before planting strawberries.

House plants need fresh air and clean skins just as much as human beings. Hence they soon become crippled in hot, dry, dusty rooms. Spray or sponge their foliage once in a while and see that there is plenty of moisture in the air at all times.—Leroy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

MERCHANTS WILL HEAR GOOD MEN

William H. Ingersoll, advertising manager of the Robert Ingersoll and Brothers company, manufacturers of "the watch that made the dollar famous" will give two lectures at the merchants' short course of the University of Minnesota, February 5 to 9.

Mr. Ingersoll is a well-known member of the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World, having been president of the National advertising section for two or three years. Mr. Ingersoll has a message which should be invaluable to any merchant who wishes to make the very most out of his opportunities.

E. B. Moon, for several years manager of a general store in Lakeville, Indiana, but now director of the department of community development and trade betterment of the Farmers' Review, Chicago, will also speak.

Mr. Moon is one of the men who has demonstrated without a doubt that the local store can serve a community much better and more economically than can a department store located in a large city. Mr. Moon has proved that the cost of doing business in a local store under proper management is less than the cost of selling on the part of the mail-order house; therefore, it can sell as economically. He also believes that a live general store by its influence in building up a community is a distinct asset not only to the village but to the surrounding agricultural community.

"U" MAY TEACH PUBLIC HEALTH

The University of Minnesota will ask the legislature for an appropriation for public health work. The plan is to obtain a professor of public health to lead and train physicians and nurses. Today public health work is a distinct profession. To quote Dr. I. J. Murphy, of the Minnesota Public Health association: "It would save funds and give more efficient service if Minnesota would train its own health workers at its own University. Citizens throughout the state are expecting the 1917 legislature to permit better state and local health work, than has obtained in the past. Larger appropriations are not so urgent as is a system, which by proper coordination and leadership, will retain men and women and allow the maximum of service for the minimum expenditure."

FARM COLLEGE BUYS AYRSHIRES

The University of Minnesota has recently made some notable purchases of Ayrshire stock for its department of agriculture. H. H. Kildee of the division of dairy and animal husbandry, has secured from Highland farm, Bryn Mawr, Pa., the imported Cow, Auchenbrae Ada 5th, 31706. This animal is in calf to Substantial of Highland, 16303, he by Imp Finlayston, 8882, out of imported Garclough Spottie, 27950, who

SCOURS IN CALVES CAUSE BIG LOSSES

Thousands of calves are lost each year by what is known as scours, says H. H. Kildee, University Farm, St. Paul. On every farm measures should be taken to guard against this disease, which results from a deranged digestive system.

Calves should have warm, clean, light and well ventilated pens. Milk should be fed in regular amounts, at regular times, at a temperature of about 80 degrees F. from scrupulously clean pails. The foam which accumulates on the milk while it is being separated should never be fed. The time to feed the grain ration is immediately after the milk is fed, so that the calves will not suck each other's ears and thus take air into the stomach, which causes bloat and produces scours. It is well to have stanchions in one side of the pen so that the calves may be confined for a short time after being fed milk.

Each day during the winter, when the weather is favorable, the calves need to be turned out into a sheltered yard for exercise, which is necessary for their proper growth and health. It is also very important that the calves, from a very early age, be given all the pure, fresh water they care to drink each day. The pens should be disinfected frequently. Quick lime is excellent to sprinkle on the floor each time it is cleaned and a frequent spraying with some standard coal tar dip solution will prove beneficial.

WORRY BANISHED FROM YOUR FARM

Successful Farming tells of a traveler who discovered the following over the arched entrance to a farm. Perhaps it is an ideal, but it is worth striving for:

DON'T WORRY FARM

A FARM OF SEVEN RULES

1. We have faith that, one year with another, nature is bountiful and kind.
2. Acting upon this faith we keep our soils deep and mellow and rich and well drained; so that they may have moisture and strength to tide over drouths and capacity to absorb floods.
3. We diversify and rotate our crops, every season in some fields, after many seasons in others, so that if nature's ways discountenance one crop they must smile others into plentiful harvests.
4. We sell where and when the world wants our products and store when it doesn't need them.
5. We strive for permanence in soil and buildings because our plan includes the future as well as the present.
6. We farm for the love of it first and to make the most of it second, that the part of the world which has no land may eat from the bounty of ours.
7. Because of these our aims we believe it unnecessary to worry, easy to prosper, and difficult to be unhappy.

CROP MEN WILL HEAR THE GOVERNOR

Governor J. A. A. Burnquist, Dr. George E. Vincent, president of the University, and Mrs. Vincent will be among the speakers at the annual meeting and exhibit of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association at Fairmont, Minn., February 13 to 15. Mrs. Vincent will address the ladies particularly on some of her adventures in mountain climbing, illustrating her address with lantern slides.—A. E. Chamberlain of the service department of the Dakota Farmer; Ralph Wheelock of the Board of Control; F. D. Sherman, immigration commissioner; Hugh J. Hughes, editor Farm, Stock and Home; C. L. Rice, master of the Minnesota State Grange; H. M. Green of Blue Earth county, recently elected to the legislature, will be among the other speakers.

GOOD SEED LIST IS NEARLY READY

The Minnesota Crop Improvement Association seed list will contain the names of men who have good seed to dispose of. The list will be ready about January 15 and can be had without cost by addressing C. P. Bull, University Farm, St. Paul. In the same list will be given the names of those having Minnesota No. 25 flaxseed for seed. This flax was bred by the Minnesota Experiment Station, and when first distributed to farmers, returned a yield nearly 25 per cent better than that of the common flax.

NEW BULLETIN ON TREE PLANTING

The College of Forestry of the University of Minnesota has issued Special Bulletin No. 10 on "Tree Planting in Minnesota" by E. G. Cheyne. This is a helpful little pamphlet telling how to prepare the soil and how to plant. Copies may be had by addressing Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

The concolor and blue spruce are two good evergreens for the home yard.

Experience in handling and a sincere love of plants are essential in growing house plants.

A potted plant or bouquet of flowers makes a good birthday gift.

Thousands of poinsettias were used in Minnesota this year. They are useful for all sorts of Christmas decorations.

Phlox may be set at almost any time of the year with good success. Spring and fall are, of course, the best times.

Some of the bulbs may be brought from the cold cellar to a warm room, and will soon flower now.

A few years ago apple and some other fruit advertisements were unknown. Now many fruit associations, and, in some cases, individuals, advertise in papers and magazines freely and thereby encourage the consumption of these fruits and their sale.

Plant more evergreens about the home. There is nothing much prettier than a well grown spruce, the branches of which are partly covered with snow, after a light snowfall in early December. Have you ever noticed the effect of snow on the branches of spruce on a clear moonlight night in winter?

Is your school ground going to be provided with a good windbreak or with a good variety of spring and autumn flowering shrubs this year? Now is a good time to think and plan about it. Why not interest the teacher and pupils and a few of the neighbors? It is worth trying.

DON'T FORGET THAT EDITORS' SHORT COURSE

To be given by

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

AT

UNIVERSITY FARM

FEBRUARY 12 TO 15

IT WILL OCCUPY THREE DAYS JUST PRECEDING THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MINNESOTA EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

Mr. Moon has in charge a store located ten miles from a large city where there are several large department stores. He demonstrated that by careful buying and efficient management he could not only sell cheaper than the big department stores, because his expenses were lower, but that he could also serve his patrons better. His efforts resulted in increasing the business of a small country store from \$10,000 to \$70,000 a year. He will explain to the merchants of the short course some of the methods which made his organization so successful. He will also give a talk on community development.

F. W. Fiske, manager of the business systems and service bureau of the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World, will give two lectures. Mr. Fiske was for some time manager of the training school for the Dry Goods Economist, a leading trade paper in New York City. Frank Stockdale, secretary of the educational committee of the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World, will give lectures on business building and business control. His lectures are a combination of chalk talk, investigator's report and general discussion. They are known as "brass tack talks."

PIECE OF RYE ON THE FARM

There are many excellent reasons for growing rye on the farm, according to specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture, even though in most localities it is less profitable as a grain crop than wheat. Rye is hardier and can therefore be grown as a winter grain in cold, exposed places. It will do well on sandy, poor or acid land. It may be sown later than wheat, thus fitting well into the farm schedule, especially when there is a rush of work in the fall. It is attacked by fewer insects and diseases than wheat, produces a more valuable straw, requires less fertilizer, and being earlier is better as a forage crop. In addition, in some sections, the production value per acre from rye actually exceeds that of wheat. This was true in the five-year period from 1910 to 1914 in South Carolina, Alabama, Texas, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

has a record of 22,580 pounds of milk, 816.25 pounds of butter fat. Mr. Kildee has also purchased a yearling heifer, sired by Finlayston and out of Imp Craighley Mid 3d. Finlayston is one of the greatest bulls of the breed, having 76 daughters in advanced registry.

The Kansas agricultural college has sold to the University of Minnesota a yearling Ayrshire bull. He is out of a daughter of Melrose Good Gift who has seven daughters now on test and they will make from 350 to 450 pounds of butter fat with their first calves. This bull is sired by a son of Lilly of Maple Shade who produced 10,832 pounds of milk, 435 pounds of butter fat in ten months. She was grand champion at the National Dairy show in 1912.

With such additions to the present stock a splendid foundation has been laid for a great Ayrshire herd.

EDITORS WILL ENTER CONTESTS

Two interesting contests have been announced for the editors' short course to be given at University Farm, St. Paul, February 12 to 15.

One of these will be a cost estimating contest open to editors and job printers. A completed job on which all of the figures have been kept will be placed in the hands of those attending the short course, and they will be asked to make careful estimation in reproducing it. The other contest will be in front page make-up. In this there will be two classes—one for six and one for seven column papers. Editors should send copies of their "star" editions to the Office of Publications, University Farm, at least a week in advance of the short course in order that they may be mounted and placed on exhibition.

These contests will be judged by unbiased experts.

SHORT COURSE WELL ATTENDED

About twelve hundred enthusiastic farmers and home-makers are attending the short course at University Farm this week. One woman remarked that she wished it lasted three weeks instead of one.

A farmer said it is his first visit to University Farm, but he is going home to boost for the School and College.

BOARD OF HEALTH CHANGES PLANNED

How to better health conditions in Minnesota was told in detail in a report recently submitted to Governor J. A. A. Burnquist, by a special public health commission appointed by the governor.

Dr. I. J. Murphy, secretary of the commission summarizes the report as follows:

The state board of health should be reorganized to consist of five instead of nine members; should not be composed entirely of physicians but of responsible citizens from various walks of life; should be empowered to appoint a commissioner of health and should not be limited to Minnesota in their choice of a man.

Broad general powers should be granted.

All existing state-financed activities relating to public health should be organized under the State Board of Health.

Chairman T. J. McGrath of the subcommittee on public health of the efficiency and economy commission included these changes in his recommendation. Chairman A. J. Rockne of the efficiency and economy commission has just sent to the governor a bill which embodies the major points covered.

ERROR IN ITEM AS TO PRUNING

"Moderate pruning is better than heavy pruning or neglect." This statement was to have been made in the last issue of the Farm Press News, but it appeared as "moderate pruning is better than heavy pruning or regular." Obviously the statement as it appeared in the Press News is in error, but that no one may be misled, the statement is corrected here.

The statement appeared as part of an item to the effect that fruit growers do not need to wait until spring to prune their orchards, but may do so at any time between November and May if the usual care is taken to make the cuts close to the main trunk or branches.