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Editor's Corner

Minnesota Editors:

Your county is probably represented among the boys and girls who won prizes in last season's state potato contests...

YOUNG POTATO

GROWERS' PRIZES

Winners in the boys' and girls' potato club contests for the season of 1918 have just been announced by T. A. Erickson...

State champion: George Gaylord, Becker county; yield per acre, 564 bushels...

Northern Minnesota champion: John Brandt, Mille Lacs county; yield per acre, 504 bushels...

The first club prize went to La Prairie club of Itasca county, which grew 346 bushels of potatoes...

Winners of other prizes divided according to the varieties of potatoes grown are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Name, Prize. Includes Theodore Johnson, Fredrick Johnson, Margaret Wieson, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Name, Prize. Includes Alvin Hoem, Knute Thorson, Millard Homquist, etc.

(Winners in this and the two succeeding classes will receive prizes in both the state-wide and northern Minnesota contests.)

Table with 2 columns: Name, Prize. Includes Naimi Saari, Catherine Leibl, Selma Hyytinen, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Name, Prize. Includes Millard Shobe, Ralph Bunnell, James Johnson, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Name, Prize. Includes Josephine Olson, Irene Swanson, Lester Harrison, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Name, Prize. Includes Earl Brown, Sivert Spongberg, Arnold Spongberg, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Name, Prize. Includes Abner Hendrickson, Roy Moody, George Larson, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Name, Prize. Includes Elmer Gordon, Howard L. Johnson, Beulah Billock, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Name, Prize. Includes Clifton Schroeder, Laura Church, Carl Hoines, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Name, Prize. Includes Lincoln School Sunshine 101, The North Star Club, etc.

The cash for the state-wide prizes—\$200—is the gift of The Farmer, St. Paul. The cash for the northern Minnesota prizes—\$300—is the gift of the Northern Minnesota Development association.

TIMELY HINT AS TO

SURFACE DITCHES

Those farmers who feel that the present uncertainty in the labor and money markets does not justify large expenditures in tile drainage improvements may now profitably give serious thought to the use of temporary, supplementary surface ditches...

Small swamps may often be profitably handled in the same way, thus converting into permanent hay meadow small areas which before were entirely unproductive.

There are machines now obtainable at nominal cost for doing ditching of this character. It is often possible with such machines to cut from one-half to a mile of field ditch...

NORTHWESTERN SHOW

A GREAT SUCCESS

The eighth annual northwestern Minnesota farmers' week and women's meetings which were held at Crookston, February 10-14, were attended by a large number.

A very successful sale was held, at which \$23,000 worth of purebred stock changed hands. As a result it was decided to enlarge the livestock sales and exhibit quarters...

The farm crops, livestock, potato, farm tractor, farm bureau, and other conferences were well attended. A stronger community interest was created which will be effective in promoting the welfare of the northwestern part of the state.

President Burton's address on the last evening was a remarkable expression of the aims and purposes of the American people.

TOO MANY ROOSTERS

SPOIL THE FLOCK

Six strong, vigorous males in a farm flock of 100 hens on the range are sufficient. They will give higher fertility than 10 males where six are strong and four are weak.

Good size and substance, eliminating narrow bodied, long-legged birds. Strong head and large face. Wealth and burnish of feather, typical of the mature, virile male.

SETTLERS' PROBLEMS

IN THE NORTH WOODS

The experiences of 141 settlers in developing farms in 10 northern Minnesota counties are outlined in a new bulletin just issued by the Minnesota experiment station.

Mr. Peck says that the 141 farmers whose experiences he reports are farmers of intelligence and industry and that their accomplishments may be taken as evidence of what can be done by such men under northern Minnesota conditions.

The average total annual receipts per farm among this group, according to the bulletin, is \$936, ranging all the way from \$300 to \$2,300.

The average farm has been settled for 12 years, 54 per cent of them having been homesteaded and the rest purchased at an average cost of \$9.50 an acre.

The cash crop receipts varied according to conditions from \$60 to \$700; cash receipts from livestock by counties from \$227 to \$973.

The growth in the value of the land is shown by the fact that the value of 136 farms from 1914 to 1917 was \$34 an acre as against \$9.50, the average price paid by settlers who bought land.

Settlers report that their problems are increased by poor roads, need of markets, difficulty in clearing land, the high rate of interest, poor stock, the need of state aid in clearing land, high taxes and land speculation.

HAY AND PASTURE

LIKELY TO BE SHORT

"The last two seasons have been particularly hard on forage crops. The dry season of 1917 left many fields of new seeding in bad shape last fall, and the winter has not been favorable to good stands of grass.

"To meet any emergency of this kind farmers will do well to sow early in the spring from two to two and one-half bushels of oats, or a mixture of oats and wheat which can be cut in the green stage either with a binder or a mower and cured as hay.

"Good forage and pastures are large factors in reducing the cost of livestock production, and those who are short of permanent hay and pasture crops will do well to consider these possible substitutes."

GET MACHINES READY

FOR SEASON'S WORK

The National Implement and Vehicle association has designated the week of March 3-8 as farm equipment repair week. It is suggested that all implement dealers in the state get in touch with the county agent and that together they organize a campaign to reach every farmer in the state.

The agricultural extension division in cooperation with the farm machinery section of the Department of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota is supplying each county agent with suggestions and plans for making this work more effective.

NEW BULLETIN ON

SUGAR IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota contains possibilities of becoming an important sugar state—important at least in its production of sugar for home consumption—according to a new bulletin by J. J. Willaman, of the Minnesota experiment station, which is just being issued by the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota.

Additional features are "Sugar Beet Sirup," "Sorghum Sirup," and "Honey." The last named subject is discussed by Francis Jager, head of the bee division at University Farm.

Copies of the bulletin may be had without cost by addressing the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

PRESENT OUTLOOK

FOR SEED GRAINS

The very large number of seed samples tested at the Minnesota seed laboratory, University Farm, St. Paul, says R. C. Dahlberg, who is in charge of the laboratory, shows that the germination for the more important seeds thus far runs as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Seed, Germination. Includes Red clover, Alsike, Alfalfa, Timothy, Flax, Wheat, Oats, Barley, Corn.

This means that there should be no difficulty in obtaining seed oats and seed barley of high quality. The situation as to wheat, flax, and corn, however, does not appear on the surface.

The figures given for the clovers and alfalfa include one-half of the hard seed as germinable. Red clover and alfalfa are somewhat lower in germination than in previous years.

Besides, because of the shortage of red clover much old seed is finding its way into market. It may be recognized easily because of its dull appearance and its dark red or brown color.

Several samples of red clover received at the laboratory have contained from 15 to 20 per cent of alfalfa. These crops are not ordinarily planted together, and, besides, it is not wise to pay red clover prices for the alfalfa which sells now at from 10 to 20 cents a pound less than the clover.

NEW CORN BORER

AFTER U. S. CORN

From Europe has been imported a corn borer which A. G. Ruggles, state entomologist, University Farm, says is one of the worst pests that has been imported from Europe for years. It will do tremendous damage, adds Mr. Ruggles, if it once gets into the real corn-growing area of the United States.

This corn borer is the larva of a moth and is omnivorous. It not only destroys corn in all stages but devours herbaceous plants, such as celery, Swiss chard, string beans, beet tops, spinach, turnip tops, dahlias, gladioli and chrysanthemums.

Congress has been asked by the American economic entomologists to appropriate \$500,000 to eradicate the pest.

IMPORTED PESTS

COST U. S. MILLIONS

It is asserted on good authority that the annual loss to American farm, orchard, and forest crops caused by insect pests imported from other countries exceeds \$1,000,000 a day, or is approximately \$500,000,000 a year.

It is for this reason that the federal horticultural board has issued quarantine order No. 37, which forbids the importation of nursery stock with balls of earth about its roots. The reason is that in such earth many insect pests sneak into the United States as stowaways.