

UNIVERSITY FARM PRESS NEWS

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

VOL. X

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., MAY 1, 1919

NO. 9

Entered as Second class matter January 15, 1910, at the postoffice at St. Paul, Minn., under the Act of July 16, 1891.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 29, 1918.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

May 1 to 8

Beets, carrots, and in fact, most vegetables may be planted now.

Plant Golden Bantam and Stowell's Evergreen sweet corn. Plant liberally.

Apple and plum trees make good ornamental trees for the back yard. Their fruits in the fall are more than ornamental.

Don't plant potatoes without first treating them for scab.

Tulips should be making a good showing now. Save for next year the bulbs when they are through flowering. They are likely to be fewer and higher in price next year.

Bulbets and small gladiolus bulbs should be planted early. If they are dry, it is well to soak them for several hours before planting.

Be sure every dahlia tuber planted has at least one eye at the tip.

War gardens were worth millions to the people of the United States last year. Why not make the peace gardens just as valuable this year? Add plenty of flowers.

Sweet peas should not be hilled, as there is danger from stem rot if this is done. It is well to leave the rows a little bit hollow to catch and hold the rain. Sweet peas should be planted early since they make their best growth in cool, moist weather.

Parsnips and salsify came out of the ground this year in excellent condition. Plant enough to leave in the ground over winter.

Plan succession crops in your garden. As soon as one crop is out plant something else. This system of course requires the addition of manure once in a while.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

May 8 to 15

Keep the early cabbage well cultivated. A garden, a pig, calf, or a flock of chickens often is the means of anchoring a boy or girl to a home.

Lima beans may be planted now. Plant on sandy, warm, rich soil for best results. Lima beans require hot weather for best development.

Keep garden tools bright and sharp. They will work easier.

Have all the common or purple-leaved barberies been removed from your grounds? They are a menace to your fruit crop, so better get busy with a sharp spade now.

One of the most successful market gardeners about the twin cities began years ago to give his boys and girls when they were small, an interest in his business, and as men and women they carry on the business today, not one of them wanting to leave it.

Cut out the old canes of spiraea Van Houttei when they are through flowering or use some of the sprays for cut flowers. It is a good plan to prune all spring-flowering shrubs when they are through flowering.

Plant that patch of watermelons and muskmelons late in May. Make a liberal planting. It will be a popular part of the garden next fall.

Watch the red cedar trees for signs of cedar apple, a yellow or orange colored mass of material. This is one form of the rust that has injured many apple orchards. Cut this off the trees and destroy it or take the whole cedar tree if you would have good fruit.

The boy or the girl interested in a garden, poultry, or pets, as a rule, becomes a self-respecting business man or woman. Large flats and small yards do not tend to make good citizens of the child. Compelled to be sheltered by them.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Here's a Chance

Several students taking their first year's work in journalism at the University—a course in reporting—are anxious to find places where they may gain experience and, if possible, some remuneration, in Minnesota newspaper offices this summer. Editors interested should communicate with Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

BELGIEN HARES AS MEAT PRODUCERS

The increasing frequency of calls for information indicate that interest in the Belgian hare as a means of solving the problem of reducing the family meat budget is growing rapidly. F. L. Washburn, of the division of entomology and economic zoology at University Farm, because of this increasing interest, has been making a study of the Belgian hare as a meat producer, and has just prepared a special bulletin on the subject, which is ready for distribution by the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota.

The meat of these animals, says the bulletin, is not at all like the cottontail or other common rabbits, but much more delicate, being more like that of the chicken.

The bulletin tells of the various breeds, how to purchase stock, how to build runs and hutches, about feeding and watering, breeding and care, killing, dressing and cooking, and about the various diseases.

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

MINNESOTA HOGS EAT THE CHEAPEST CORN

On the basis of the relative price of corn and hogs, Minnesota hogs give a larger return for every dollar's worth of corn used than hogs in any other state of the union. This fact is demonstrated by a study of figures given in the United States Monthly Crop Reporter for February, 1919. On the basis of the farm price for corn and hogs for the five years, 1910 to 1914 inclusive, the bushels of corn required to equal the price of 100 pounds of hog in Minnesota was 14, while in Illinois and Missouri the corresponding corn price per hundredweight of hog was 12.9 bushels and 11.2 bushels, respectively. This means that where farm-raised corn is the principal hog feed the Minnesota farmer gets the same profit on hogs as the Illinois farmer, if he uses 1.1 bushels more corn for each hundredweight of hog produced, while he would get the same profit as the Missouri farmer if he used 2.8 bushels more corn for each 100 pounds of hog. The farmers in northwest Iowa, southwest South Dakota and northeast Nebraska, would have the same advantage as the farmers of Minnesota. These figures are further confirmed by United States department of agriculture bulletin No. 696, entitled, "Geographical Phases of Corn Prices." This publication shows that the cheapest corn in the United States is found in southwestern Minnesota, southeast South Dakota, northwest Iowa, and northeast Nebraska.

These facts suggest that the southern Minnesota farmer is especially favorably situated for raising hogs at a profit, and that he will on the average do well to feed a large part of his corn crop for the reason that the farmer in southern Minnesota has as cheap corn as any farmer in the United States, while the price of his hogs and cattle is nearly the same as for sections farther east and south, for the reason that the freight on hogs and cattle is but a small per cent of their value as compared to the freight on an article like corn.

SUNFLOWERS MAKE SATISFACTORY SILAGE

Several farmers in the northern part of the state have found that sunflowers make very good silage and that they can be grown more successfully than corn, reports A. J. McGuire, of the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota.

The sunflowers are grown either in hills or drills and cultivated. When planted in drills about 18 pounds of seed per acre are required. The Russian variety is considered best.

The Montana experiment station has been experimenting with sunflowers for silage and reports very favorably, giving the following analysis as compared with corn silage:

	Water	Protein	Carbo-	Fats
	hydrates		hydrates	
Sunflower silage.....	78.6	2.2	10.3	.5
Corn silage.....	79.1	1.7	11.	.8

CLIPPING OF OATS PREVENTS LODGING

"Please tell me where I can find a variety of oats that will not lodge," is a question asked many times every year. The answer is always the same—"There is no such thing." But pasturing the crop when it begins to grow too rank, or, clipping it with a mower will help to prevent lodging. Clipping should be done when the grain is from six to eight inches high, leaving about four inches standing.—C. P. Bull, University Farm, St. Paul.

FLY BIGGER VILLAIN THAN THE LOUSE IS

"The housefly, when we consider its source, its manner of life, and its relation to our food and drink, is not one whit less disgusting than is the louse," says W. A. Riley, the chief of the entomology division of the Minnesota college of agriculture. "It is even a greater menace to health for it has been implicated as a carrier of more diseases than has the louse. And yet today the louse is scarcely mentionable in polite society, while we not only tolerate houseflies in stores and restaurants, but even in our homes. There is a very general feeling on the part of the public that the pests are at worst a necessary evil.

"This viewpoint is wholly wrong. Flies can be eliminated when the public awakes to the necessity of concerted action. In the meantime, the individual householder can greatly reduce their numbers by keeping his own premises clean and thus not only preventing fly-breeding but lessening the chances of obtaining a supply of flies from careless neighbors."

"Screen your house thoroughly," adds Dr. Riley, "and by the use of sticky fly paper and 'swatting' get rid of the strays which escape this line of defense. "Inform yourself as to the life history, the disease carrying possibilities and methods of control of the housefly. Refuse to trade with the milkman, the baker, the grocer, the confectioner who is so indifferent about the health of his customers that he does not protect his goods from flies. Keep the subject before your community and you will be doing real, constructive public health work. BE A PROGRESSIVE."

DAIRY OUTLOOK VERY PROMISING

The year 1918 was one of the best in the history of Minnesota dairying. The present year promises to be still better, says A. J. McGuire, agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota.

The cooperative creameries of the state paid an average price of 57 cents a pound for butterfat in January, 1918, and 58 cents in January, 1919. For February, 1918, the average price paid was 53 cents; for February, 1919, the average price paid the farmer by the cooperative creameries was 61 cents.

The world demand for butter is such that dairy farmers should do everything possible to supply this demand. Cream separators should be operated so that no butterfat is lost in the skimmilk. The amount of whole milk fed to calves should be reduced to a minimum.

With the high price for butter should go high quality. Every dairy farmer should use a cream-cooling tank and see that his cream is delivered to the creamery in first class condition.

SHORT COURSE FOR PRACTICING DENTISTS

The college of dentistry of the University of Minnesota, in cooperation with the general extension division, is announcing a short course in crown and bridge work to be given during two weeks, May 19-31.

The course is for practicing dentists, and will cover the fundamental principles involved in crown and bridge work on vital and non-vital teeth, laboratory work for each student, and clinics with complete demonstrations. It will require the registrants' full time for two weeks.

The class will be limited to 30 students so that proper individual instruction may be given to each man.

Students should bring instruments needed for laboratory technic work. Dental engines may be secured at the college.

SOLVING HOME LABOR PROBLEMS

As a means toward helping to solve the household labor problems, the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota is suggesting as a slogan for communities having cooperative creameries, the following: A cooperative laundry with every good cooperative creamery in the state.

This suggestion by the agricultural extension division is made in a leaflet just ready for distribution. This leaflet describes the plan adopted in Chatfield, where a cooperative laundry has been in operation with entire success since 1912. This laundry does about 80 family washings every week at an average cost of \$1.37, and fully half of these are from the country.

CROPS POSSIBLE ON BURNED-OVER PEAT

"If you have land on which at least four inches of peat was burned off last year, it should be seeded to a crop this season before the weeds have a chance to get a foothold," says F. J. Alway, soil specialist of the Minnesota Experiment station, St. Paul. "On all such burned peat soils a good growth of crops may be expected in the first season after burning. In the second and following years on some there will be only a poor yield, while on others the beneficial effects will only gradually disappear in the course of four or five years. On some very shallow peats the productivity may continue as on ordinary soils.

"The benefit from the burning is caused by the addition of ash and not simply to the removal of the whole or part of the peat layer. If the ash should be largely blown away by the wind, the beneficial effect of the burning might prove very slight. Peat soils in general contain much phosphate, but it is present in such a form that the plants cannot make use of it. The burning releases the phosphate so that it is readily available to plants. The peat ash may be regarded as a low-grade phosphate fertilizer, containing also considerable lime and a little potash, and when added in sufficient amounts to properly drained unburned peats it will cause good crop yields."

SOYBEAN SEED NEED INOCULATION

Soil from soybean fields for the inoculation of seed for planting this spring may be had from the farm crops section at University Farm, St. Paul, at 25 cents for enough to inoculate one bushel of seed, reports A. C. Arny, who is in charge of the section. This offer is made because inoculation is necessary in growing soybeans. Mr. Arny gives the following instructions for inoculating:

For each bushel of seed to be inoculated dissolve in a pint of water ¼ cupful of sugar. Spread the seed on a clean floor and sprinkle the sugar solution over it, stirring the mass so that each seed is moistened; then scatter the finely sifted soil over the moistened seed and stir thoroughly. In this way some of the inoculated soil sticks to every seed. After the inoculated soil is applied to the seed, the seed should be kept from exposure to the sun, since sunlight kills the bacteria. When the seed is inoculated in this way it may be sown as usual, since the small amount of soil applied does not clog up any of the seeding machinery.

Where soybeans are planted alone, they should be planted two or three days before the ordinary time for planting corn. Where they are planted with corn for silage they should be planted at the same date.

CITIZENSHIP TO BE TAUGHT BY MAIL

To further the study of state and national governments, the University of Minnesota offers through its correspondence-study department, three courses that are of special present importance. The basic course is "American Government." It deals with the nature and origin of our national government, the organization of the executive, legislative and judicial branches. This may be followed by "State and Local Government," a course in which are discussed the constitutional basis of state government, the relation of the state to both national and local government. Those who wish to give special attention to city government can do so by undertaking "Municipal Government," a course which takes up organization, functions, and administration of cities.—General Extension Division, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

ORDINARY HEN MUST GO; FEED TOO HIGH

The ordinary hen must go to the boiling pot. Feed is too high to warrant keeping her. Only hens which will give good returns in eggs can be kept now, says W. E. Stanfield, University Farm.

A Minnesota poultryman, in touch with the poultry specialists at University Farm, is finishing his year's work with a flock of 262 hens, with an average egg production for a period of 12 months of more than 170 eggs. The average farm flock in this state produces about 72 eggs per hen. An average of at least 100 eggs per hen should be striven for. This would mean an additional income from the ordinary flock of \$84 a year. Standard bred poultry, given a little attention, will give these results.

COWS, NOT BREWERS, TO GET BARLEY NOW

The closing of the market for barley in the brewing industry in the near future, as well as the present high price of corn, is resulting in many inquiries concerning barley as a dairy feed, says C. H. Eckles, new chief of the dairy husbandry division at University Farm, St. Paul. Barley has long been a standard part of the dairy cow ration in north Europe and has been fed to some extent in parts of America. The reason it has not been used more for feeding purposes is that the brewers wanted it and were willing to pay enough for it to keep it out of the feed trough. As a result corn has been the cheaper feed, but barley will undoubtedly be fed to a much greater extent in the future.

In feeding value barley is slightly below corn, but so little that for all practical purposes it should be put in the same class and considered as the equal of corn pound for pound, adds Mr. Eckles. At current market prices barley is cheaper than corn. Barley supplies 79 pounds of digestible food to the hundred pounds and corn 86 pounds. With corn at \$1.40 a bushel, a pound of digestible food in corn costs three cents. With barley at 85 cents a bushel a pound of digestible food in barley costs two and a quarter cents. When corn is worth \$1.40 a bushel, barley is worth about \$1.10 a bushel.

Barley for cows should be fed ground and may be used with advantage up to half the grain ration. A good ration, containing barley, would be as much corn silage and clover hay as the cows will eat up clean and a grain mixture of four parts barley, two parts wheat bran, and one part oilmeal or cottonseed meal. The grain mixture should be fed at the rate of one pound to each four pounds of milk produced by a Holstein or two to each three pounds of milk produced by a Guernsey or Jersey.

BARLEY DEMAND LIKELY TO GROW

"Some people have expressed a fear that with the advance of prohibition there will be no further use for barley and that the market for it will fall. This is not good reasoning," says Andrew Boss, vice director of the Minnesota Experiment station. "Only a small part of the barley grown has been used for brewing purposes. A large amount of it has always been fed. With a scarcity of corn and the corn that is available bringing a high price, the demand for barley as a feed will be larger than ever.

"Barley has been fed satisfactorily in the production of beef. Two grand champions at the International Livestock show have been finished on Canadian barley. Barley has also been fed satisfactorily to dairy cows. In the northern states and Canada barley is very successfully used as a hog feed. It is the best grain substitute known for corn and can be used extensively in meat production. A combination of barley and rye is very successfully fed by many German farmers to their horses and it can equally well be fed with oats.

"In fact, there is no class of animals on the farm that will not thrive on a ration of which barley composes the major part. When it is well grown and well cured it is one of the most economical as well as one of the most satisfactory livestock feeds among our northern grains. Its use as a feed can be widely extended and a liberal acreage of barley should be provided."

MAIL COURSE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

A correspondence course in International Law is offered by the University of Minnesota. It deals with recognition, extinction, and succession of states; inviolability of territory; freedom of the seas; declaration of war; rules of war on land and on sea; neutrality and neutral rights; blockade, contraband, un-neutral service, visit and search; mediation, arbitration, and judicial settlement of international disputes.—General Extension Division, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

"BOND" SHEEP A NEW AND PAYING BREED

The Roseau County Farm Bureau, in cooperation with the War Industries Board, is introducing a limited number of a new breed of sheep into Roseau county. These sheep will cost the co-operators \$100 each, but their value and redeeming features are that they require practically no care, no expensive shelter, and absolutely no feed or fencing.

The wool from these sheep can be clipped twice a year and the quality of the fleece is so valuable that the United States government guarantees a cash price of \$2.13 for each clipping. At the end of 15 years, the government will pay \$100 for the surrender of the receipt of the original purchase.