

UNIVERSITY FARM PRESS NEWS

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

VOL. X

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., JUNE 15, 1919

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Department of Agriculture NO. 12

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.

FINE OUTLOOK FOR
POULTRY INDUSTRY

The present outlook for poultry keepers is the most promising ever known, says N. E. Chapman, extension specialist in poultry at University Farm. Grains of all kinds will probably remain near the present level, while poultry products will gradually increase in price because of their comparative value as food.

To meet the opportunity, Minnesota needs standard breeds on every farm; bred, fed and housed for the highest egg-production possible. The yearly average egg yield for each hen may easily be doubled, thus greatly increasing the profits from the flocks.

The increased demand for turkeys on turkeys, geese, ducks and guinea fowls shows a growing interest, also, in the rearing of this class of poultry for increasing food production. The grain fields of the Red River Valley, and the wooded regions of northern Minnesota, afford food and range for this kind of birds.

For the family food supply, as well as market purposes, no flesh can be produced more cheaply than that of geese and ducks. Indications are that there will be a greater demand in the future for water fowls.

The poultry industry in Minnesota is entering upon an era of great prosperity.

PRESERVING EGGS
FOR WINTER USE

Preserving eggs in waterglass, or silicate of sodium, has proved very satisfactory. The process is very simple and easy, the cost of material and container very moderate, the quality of the eggs is maintained, and they may be put down at any time when they are abundant or cheapest.

One part of waterglass to nine parts of water is a standard mixture. Boil the water and add the waterglass before it cools, stirring thoroughly. A popular amount is one quart of waterglass to nine quarts of water, making enough mixture for fifteen dozen eggs. Any container, excepting tin or iron may be used, but a five-gallon earthen jar is the favorite one. This will hold fifteen dozen eggs, or half a case, and when filled may be easily handled.

Only fresh, clean, hard-shelled eggs should be put down. Care must be taken that none are checked or cracked. Dirty eggs may be washed, but should be rolled in the thin white of an egg and dried before putting down.

MINNESOTA EGGS ARE
A HIT IN NEW YORK

"A car of eggs was received by the Harry Dowie company on Monday from northern Minnesota that is worthy of special notice on account of the exceptional character of its quality and selection," says the New York Produce Review and American Creamery. "We have never before seen a straight carload of such eggs."

"This car contained 460 cases weighing gross 29,877 pounds or within a very small fraction of 65 pounds gross to the case. The net weight is 51½ pounds to the case. The eggs are of remarkable uniformity in size and shape and are packed in special fillers, to accommodate which the cases were made about ¼-inch deeper by nailing cleats to the ends and middle partition. Excelsior pads were used top and bottom and the car arrived in perfect order. The quality of the eggs matched their size and appearance in perfection. The goods were much sought for and were placed chiefly to dealers having retail trade at 52 cents."

The quotations of the New York egg market for the day on which the eggs arrived in New York, May 6, was packed "First to extra first"—45½ to 47 cents. It is stated that an occasional car of fancy stock was taken up at 47½ and 48 cents. "Nearby" white eggs were quoted at 50 to 52 cents, showing that the Minnesota eggs were on a par with "nearby whites."

SUMMER SESSION
OF THE UNIVERSITY

Courses for summer work at the University designed for college students, for experienced teachers, and for others seeking the advantages of advanced study, will be offered this year by the colleges of agriculture, dentistry, education, engineering, science, literature and the arts, law school, medical school and a graduate school. The courses, with the exception of those in agriculture and home economics, will be given on the main campus in Minneapolis.

CEMENT OR CLAY
TILE FOR FARM?

Which is better, cement or clay tile? Does alkali or frost disintegrate cement tile? These are live questions in drainage.

Seventy years of experience have shown that well made clay tile is practically everlasting. Intensive tests for the last fifteen years have shown that while strong soil alkalis and acids tend to disintegrate cement tile slowly, still tile made of very dense concrete, of good materials and properly cured is only nominally affected by ordinary soil acids and alkalis. Moreover, recent careful experiments on high grade cement tile by experienced investigators and the personal experience of the writer with a poor grade of cement tile, have shown cement tile to be far more resistant to freezing action than is clay tile. Our experience shows that high grade tile of either kind is satisfactory and it is certain that cement tile can often be more readily obtained than clay tile.

The farmer is advised, however, not to try to make his own tile but to buy a commercial article as the regular factory is in a better position to obtain good materials and to manufacture properly. The purchaser of drain tile should also protect himself by standard tests as outlined by the American Association for Testing Materials. Many tile plants and the Portland Cement association are glad to make such tests on request. The Engineering Division at University Farm will make tests on request if samples be sent to University Farm all carriage charges prepaid.—H. B. Roe, University Farm, St. Paul.

WOMAN GETS \$400 A
YEAR FROM TURKEYS

A very satisfactory revenue of \$400, to pay interest on her investment and to compensate her for her labor, was entered by Mrs. H. B. Hobart of Alexandria, Minn., as a result of her management of a flock of turkeys in 1918, according to reports received by N. E. Chapman, extension specialist in poultry at University Farm, St. Paul. And the \$400 represented only a part of Mrs. Hobart's returns from her poultry enterprise, an enterprise into which she was induced to go from observance of the work of boys' and girls' clubs while she was a country school teacher.

Mrs. Hobart started with good foundation stock, studied her problems, took pains, and here is the way the story for 1918 reads:

Perhaps her greatest success has been with Mammoth Bronze turkeys. For the selling season of 1918, her total sales were \$530.60, and the expense of producing and selling the stock was \$130.60, leaving her \$400 for her investment and labor. She returned \$150 for orders for breeding stock that she could not fill.

When the turkey trade for the season closed, she sold baby chicks and hatching eggs from her flock of purebred Barred Plymouth Rocks.

She has six incubators with a total capacity of 1,214 eggs. She sells baby chicks from \$20 to \$25 per hundred, and has not been able to supply the demand.

Mrs. Hobart advertises her stock in the leading poultry journals and farm papers, and they win for her at the leading poultry shows. Since 1916 she has won 40 first, 20 seconds and 3 thirds.

FIGURES THAT SHOW
COW-TESTING PAYS

Twelve per cent of the patrons of the cooperative creamery of Dover, Minn., are members of the local cow-testing association. Though only 12 per cent of the number, they receive about 36 per cent of the money paid by the creamery to its patrons. This is not because of larger herds, but because of better cows and better dairy practices.

In January the returns to dairymen who belonged to the cow-testing association were \$14.19 per cow, while the returns to non-members were \$5.95 per cow. At the same rate, the returns for a year would be almost \$100 per cow more for the herds belonging to association members.

The advantage of the cow-testers over others was brought about by their detecting and eliminating of low producers and their feeding of the remainder of their cows according to known production.

FEEDING FAMILY
BY SYSTEM PAYS

The high cost of foods may be cut and the family better fed by the use of a little systematic planning in the home, according to special bulletin No. 39, "Computing Food for the Average American Family," by Lucy Cordiner, of the Agricultural Extension division, University Farm. The bulletin is intended to serve as a guide in such planning. It gives simple and easily understood tables, showing the amount of food required by persons of different ages and sexes and engaged in different kinds of work. From these tables the amounts and kinds of foods needed by different members of the family may be computed with ease, the proper proportions may be assigned to each and purchases may be made with precision. By following such a system the family is more efficiently and more cheaply fed. Copies of the bulletin may be had by addressing Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

June 15-22

Early flowering shrubs may be pruned now. Careful pruning will give more flowers next year.

Do not cut asparagus after the twentieth of June if you would have the best results next year.

Keep all dead leaves and flowers picked off the sweet peas, pansies and other annuals. They will bloom more freely.

It is a good plan to tie tall growing, weak stemmed flower stalks to stakes to prevent their blowing over during heavy wind or rain storms.

Thorough cultivation given frequently to a garden made on rich soil should give a good supply of vegetables and flowers.

Cedar waxwings are said to feed on the berries of highbush cranberries in late winter. This is another reason for planting this shrub more liberally.

Visit your neighbors' rose gardens this month. The public rose garden maintained by the Park Board of Minneapolis is usually at its best in late June. It is located at Lyndale Park, near Lake Harriet.

Keep the worms off the cabbage by using an arsenical poison. Paris green and lime dusted on the plants when they are moist is effective.

Attend the State Horticultural Society picnic and flower show at University Farm this month. Notices of it are in the papers.

Green wood cuttings of flowering shrubs may be made now. They should be about six inches long and put in moist sand in a shady place. Short cuttings do not root so easily as long ones.

Lilacs have been especially good this year. Their season began with the common old-fashioned lilac, followed by the Persian, Emodi, hybrid sorts, and later by the large flowering Japanese variety.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

June 22-29

Sow carrots, beets, peas and beans now for late fall use.

Begin now to plan and prepare material for exhibition at the state and county fairs.

If the old strawberry bed is to be used next year it must be thinned out and cultivated now.

One hundred carloads of potatoes were shipped from New York to Russia this year.

Sow seeds now of perennials for next year. Use hollyhock, larkspur, geranium, boltonia, etc.

A garden systematically planted is easy to care for. A mixed, irregular planting often makes the care too difficult.

Garden tools often wear more from rust and weathering than from use. Keep them bright and protect them from rain and sun.

A planting of Golden Bantam sweet corn stands a pretty good chance of making roasting ears if put in now.

Watch hedges and rose bushes for insects' work. Remedies applied at the right time in the proper way will prevent injury to plants.

This has been the best season for bedding stock that the florists have ever had. It shows that folks are thinking more about plants and shrubs, and the yard that is not well planted is a back number nowadays.

Arabis Alpina and Alyssum Saxatile were two of the earliest perennials to bloom this spring. The May-day tree, usually the earliest shrub to bloom, did not come into full bloom until May 6, a week later than usual.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

STRANGE THEORIES
AS TO GRAIN RUST

The barberry eradication campaign being waged by the United States department of agriculture and the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota is bringing out some strange theories as to the cause of black stem rust of wheat. A farmer in Pipestone county challenges any one to disprove his theory that rust is caused by "cold coming out of the earth." He says that when a field of grain rusts there is frost in the ground below. He apparently is oblivious of the fact that rust occurs in the southern states where frosts are unknown. Other farmers in the state believe that the rust of grain comes from barbed wire fences or iron pipes.

Theories like this are among the things which the field men who are carrying out the anti-barberry campaign are constantly meeting, says Mark A. McCarty, one of the group of Minnesota. To offset such ideas and to stimulate interest in the campaign, the United States department of agriculture has just issued a new farmers' bulletin No. 1058, urging the destruction of the common barberry. This bulletin is by E. C. Stakman, of the Minnesota Experiment station. It calls the common barberry an outlaw because it helps to spread the stem rust of the wheat, giving much evidence against it, and shows how epidemics of the rust have been practically eliminated in countries like Denmark, where the barberry has been eradicated.

Information being collected by the field men in the campaign shows that the barberry is growing wild in many places in Minnesota. This is in part regarded as the cause for the spread of the rust in many sections of the state.

MUTUAL PAY FIRE
SUFFERERS \$100,000

Up to May 20, 89 of the 160 farmers' mutuals in Minnesota had contributed \$141,550.83 toward paying the losses of \$364,933 sustained by mutuals in the forest fire district of northeastern Minnesota. Of the total loss, the four companies affected—The Carlton Company, the Finnish Local, the St. Louis County, and the Windemere—are endeavoring to raise \$129,021, by an assessment of \$60 per \$1,000 of insurance in force. This leaves \$235,912 to be raised by the 160 mutuals in Minnesota if these farmers' mutual companies in the fire district are to be saved from bankruptcy.

Upon May 22, the first \$100,000 was distributed to the four companies as follows:

Windemere Mutual	\$17,548
Carlton County Farmers' Mutual	36,863
St. Louis County Farmers' Mutual	15,444
Finnish Local	30,144
Total	\$99,999

The amount due to each company was in proportion to the loss sustained in excess of six per cent of the insurance in force.

If the companies that have not yet given this matter attention will take prompt action toward raising their quota of 75 cents for each \$1,000 of insurance in force, the remainder of the \$235,912 can be placed in the hands of the stricken companies. A second distribution will be made as soon as another \$100,000 is available.

Those who had old line insurance have already received their money.—Wm. L. Cavert, Member of the committee for the state association of Farmers' Mutuals.

EARTHEN JARS AS
EGG SAVINGS BANKS

Filled with waterglass the old earthen jar from the cellar possesses magic akin to Aladdin's wonderful lamp. Eggs put in it now can be taken out next fall and winter when high prices return, and it is not unlikely they will double in price in that time, says advices received at University Farm from the United States department of agriculture. Farmers and poultry men, especially city dwellers who keep poultry are being urged by poultry specialists of the United States department of agriculture to preserve eggs in waterglass solution this spring and early summer when they are relatively cheap, for use during the fall and winter when they are relatively scarce and high in price.

HOW TO IDENTIFY
"TAKE-ALL" IN WHEAT

"Take-all" in wheat appears in round or irregular patches, within which all of the plants are destroyed, according to advices received at University Farm, St. Paul, from the United States department of agriculture. This habit gave rise to the name of take-all. In the infected patches the plants are first yellow, later becoming brown and dead. Diseased plants are but weakly rooted to the ground, and the roots and foot of the stem become rotten. From this comes another name, foot-rot, by which the disease is sometimes known. Affected plants may survive the early or seeling attack and produce heads, but they never fill out and are a dead white in color. This gives rise to a third name of the disease, white-head.

HEIFERS ON THIN
PASTURE NEED GRAIN

Herds of cattle, some handled in the right way and some handled in the wrong way, have been noticed by L. V. Wilson, of the division of dairy husbandry at University Farm, in visiting farms in the vicinity of the twin cities recently.

The young cattle in some of these herds, says Mr. Wilson, are turned out on the theory that they will pick up on pasture and look pretty good in a few weeks. Their owners fail to realize that while they are "picking up" their growth is really being retarded.

The young cattle in other herds, however, show that the breeders have realized that young heifers must be given the best possible chance during the winter and that they must continue their gains in weight every day when first turned out to pasture. Such gains are assured by adding a little additional grain in the early pasturing days. In this way the inevitable shrinkage which comes to animals when only access to grass is given is avoided.

All of our famous Minnesota "JUNIOR TWOS" have been given every possible attention to increase their size and ruggedness in the early pasture season, adds Mr. Wilson; also, when the hot sun and drought begin to wither the pasture. Especial care in feeding at such times gives increased capacity for production.

SNAKES ARE USEFUL;
SHOULDN'T BE KILLED

Minnesota snakes are useful; it is a mistake to kill them, says F. L. Washburn, of the division of entomology and economic zoology at University Farm, St. Paul. With the exception of a very few rattle snakes found in certain well-known localities in the state, all snakes here are not only harmless, but do an immense amount of good, adds Mr. Washburn. They kill field mice in enormous numbers, and gophers, as well as grasshoppers, and other injurious insects. To be sure they do prey upon frogs which are themselves insect-catchers, and to some extent they attack and destroy nests full of young birds, but they consume so many noxious vermin, that it is a noticeable fact in areas where snakes, hawks, and owls have been systematically killed off, that field mice and other pests have increased to an alarming extent.

CARE IS NEEDED IN
GIVING SALT TO HOGS

Salt poisoning of hogs is not of rare occurrence, according to an article by H. C. H. Kernkamp, University Farm, St. Paul, reprinted from the Cornell Veterinarian. Pigs, says Mr. Kernkamp, should not be given salt as other farm animals are. Whenever salt is used for pigs it should be mixed with the feed or used as one of the ingredients of a tonic or conditioner. It should never be placed in a container alone where the hogs have free access to it.

SWINE DISEASE
MORE PREVALENT

Necrobacillosis of swine is becoming more prevalent in certain sections of the country and is assuming considerable economic importance, says C. P. Fitch, University Farm, St. Paul, in a paper reprinted from the annual report of the United States Livestock Sanitary association. While the germ which causes the disease is of special interest by reason of its effect on swine, it also affects other domestic animals. It is found chiefly in filth, and the prevention of necrobacillosis, according to Dr. Fitch, must be based on cleanliness. Pig pens, he says, should be cleaned daily and the floor sprinkled with three per cent solution of any coal-tar disinfectant. The manure, especially from affected animals, should not be spread on pastures intended for swine. The key to the control is prevention based especially on the proper disposal of manure.