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ORCHARD AND GARDEN

December 1 to 8

A plant or a box of flowers makes a good Christmas gift.

Make firewood now of dead trees on the lawn, in the orchard or windbreak. They only harbor disease and insects.

The value of the 1918 apple crop of the United States was about \$230,000,000. It ranked ninth in farm crops.

Squash have seldom been of as good quality as this season. Use more of them while they are at their best early this winter.

Cut flowers, except those with milky juice, like poinsettias or poppies, keep best if a small portion of the lower end of the stem is cut off each day and the stem set in clean water.

About 13,000,000 pounds of maple sugar were made in the United States in 1918 and about 4,000,000 gallons of sirup. Vermont, New York, and Pennsylvania are the largest producers of sugar.

Large farm owners are finding it an advantage to build houses on their farms for their help. A man who has a comfortable home is more contented and will do better work than a rover.

A manufacturer recently said that it costs at least \$80 to replace a man in his line of work besides more or less inefficiency in "breaking in" the new man. It is to his advantage to keep a good man contented when he gets him. Encouragement in home building and giving him comfortable and attractive surroundings is one way of doing this.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

December 8 to 15

About five chickens per person were raised in 1918, plenty to destroy a good garden, but none too many to furnish the country with eggs.

More than 200 tons of poisoned grain were used in Montana in 1918 to get rid of ground squirrels and prairie dogs.

According to the 1918 Yearbook less than two bushels of apples per capita were raised in the United States in 1918 and less than one-third of a bushel of peaches and one-tenth of a bushel of pears.

There have not been as many ducks on Minnesota lakes in years as during this autumn. Perhaps better game protection is responsible for this. Certainly the ducks used the protected lakes more and longer than for years.

A certain hundred acre orchard in New York will sell more than 10,000 bushels of apples this year, netting the owner more than \$30,000. This is on rough land of little value except for crops of this sort.

Get rid of bean weevils by placing the beans in a tight container and setting a dish of carbon bisulphide on the top of the seed, putting on the cover and leaving it closed for eight or ten hours. This gas settles down among the beans, destroying the weevils. Half a cup to two or three bushels of beans is effective.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

PASTURAGE CUTS
HOG RAISING BILLS

Farmers can reduce the cost of pork production next year by providing a suitable pasture for their hogs, says W. H. Peters, of the animal husbandry division, University Farm. Most pasture grasses are rich in protein. The call for high grain rations is therefore less urgent, a matter to be taken into consideration in these days of falling prices for hogs and pigs. Alfalfa and brome grass are best for growing pigs, but no matter how good a pasture is some grain must be fed if the hogs are to thrive and make profitable gains.

BULLETINS FREE
EXCEPT FOR POSTAGE

No charge except for postage will hereafter be made for the bulletins, "Cement and Its Use on the Farm," and "Mechanical Drawing for the Farm and Agricultural School," issued by E. C. Crane and George F. Krogh, respectively, of the division of agricultural engineering of the University of Minnesota. Heretofore a charge of 25 cents a copy was made for these bulletins, which may now be obtained on application at the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul, when postage is included, two cents for the bulletin on cement, and three cents for the bulletin on mechanical drawing.

FEED GRAIN, WATCH
MILK FLOW GAIN

Cow testing associations of Minnesota are reporting some fine records as the year nears its close. "At the present price of butterfat," says W. A. McKerron, state leader of livestock and dairy extension, University Farm, "it pays to feed grain to good cows." Many dairymen over the state have reached a like conclusion. The tester of the Winona county association says he has been advising the use of higher protein feeds with fair results. The tester in Steele county reports that several kinds of protein feeds are being used, also some beet pulp, as some of the association members wish to make big weekly records this winter. Feeding of the balanced ration is reflected in the October reports. A cow owned by Ed Kuchenbecker of Steele county produced 87.7 pounds of butterfat during the month. A cow in the herd of Carl Lunde of Zumbrota was a close second, 87.4 pounds. Third in the list was a cow owned by W. S. Ramer, of the Barnum association, 68.6 pounds. Fifth place belongs to a dairy queen belonging to John D. Ruble of the Pioneer association of Freeborn county, 64.6 pounds. A Northfield district cow produced 61.91 pounds.

TRIM APPLE TREES
ON MILD FALL DAYS

According to the old adage, the time to prune is when "the knife is sharp." In other words, prune whenever occasion arises. If the trees are properly looked after each year it is seldom necessary to do any heavy pruning which demands the use of a saw. Late winter and early spring is the time when most persons prune. On mild days in the fall the trees should be looked over and pruned. Make all cuts close to the limb or trunk. Do not leave stubs or "hat racks." Examine each tree and follow this plan:

1. Remove all dead and diseased limbs and branches.
2. Remove all "sucker" growths and branches that cross or interfere with others.
3. Open center of tree by removing some of the weaker branches.
4. Shorten tops if trees are too tall.

Do not prune too severely trees that are of bearing age. In trees that have never been pruned there is danger of causing excessive wood growth if too many limbs are cut off at one time. It is better to distribute the pruning over a period of three years.

Several years ago two trees in the orchards at University Farm were pruned in this manner: the first was pruned severely and the other lightly; the next crop year the first yielded 1 1/2 bushels of apples and the latter 6 bushels. Too severe pruning lessened the crop. Pruning is done to make the remaining parts better serve our purpose.—R. S. Mackintosh, horticultural specialist of the extension staff, University Farm.

MORE CO-OPERATIVE
LAUNDRIES PLANNED

Mary L. Bull, of the extension division, Minnesota department of agriculture, has been advised that several communities in Minnesota are making a study of the cooperative laundry system with a view to starting such plants the coming year. That interest is increasing in the subject is also apparent from the fact that inquiries are coming to University Farm for information regarding the Chatfield, Minn., laundry. The state of Montana is going into the cooperative washing business on a small scale at least, and Nashville, Tenn., is calling on the extensionists of University Farm for full information on the subject. The Chatfield Laundry association was organized in 1912. Miss Bull says: "The people of Chatfield community have proved that such a laundry is practicable and profitable, and closely related to the comfort and well being of the family and community."

FIRST ESSENTIAL FOR
CO-OPERATION

The division of research in agricultural economics at University Farm, after having made a protracted study of cooperation by farmers, finds that Minnesota leads all the states in the number of cooperative companies. It finds, too, that Minnesota's lead is not likely to be challenged for many years to come. Sound economic need is cited by the investigators as the basis for a successful cooperative company. "Such a need exists," they declare, "where the present markets give poor service or take too large profits; where the present marketing system is wasteful and expensive, and whenever the farmers by combining can reach better markets with their products or teach themselves to turn out better products."

SKIM-MILK TOO
COSTLY FOR HOGS

Skimmilk for hog feed will soon be a thing of the past, in the opinion of E. O. Hanson, member of the staff of the dairy division at University Farm.

"Skimmilk," Mr. Hanson says, "is already being sold in various forms, such as milk powder, casein, and cottage cheese. Demand for it is increasing rapidly because of its food value, although it contains no fats. About 17 pounds of cottage cheese can be made from 100 pounds of skimmilk. An analysis will show that cottage cheese is as nourishing, pound for pound, as lean beef.

"Suppose beef to be worth 18 cents a pound and cottage cheese to be of equal value; this would then make the value of one quart of skimmilk 6.12 cents. At this rate, skimmilk is too valuable to be used for hog feed."

PREPARING HOGS
FOR SLAUGHTER

In view of the Ham and Bacon Show to be held at University Farm during Farmers' and Home-makers' Week, December 29 to January 3, Philip A. Anderson, assistant professor of animal husbandry, Minnesota college of agriculture, offers some hints on dressing and curing of meats which prospective exhibitors and farmers generally would do well to consider. Healthy and mature hogs weighing about 225 pounds should be selected, he says. "Use only the best hogs for yourself," is his advice. "Meat from young, thin hogs does not cure well," he says, "and the meat from old sows and stags is too coarse to make hams and bacon of good quality.

"Hogs intended for slaughter should be taken off feed 12 hours before killing for the reason that animals so treated are easier to handle and as a rule bleed out more completely, thus giving a carcass that keeps better.

"Handle hogs gently previous to slaughtering so they do not become excited and overheated. Much of the pork that spoils in curing is really spoiled by careless treatment of the hog before slaughtering."

SOYBEAN SEED
FOR NEXT YEAR

Many inquiries are already being received at University Farm regarding soybean seed for next year. Any growers in Minnesota who have seed of Chestnut, Hobaro, Elton, or Wisconsin Black for sale should write A. C. Arny, University Farm, St. Paul, giving the amounts and price a bushel and sending samples. "Minsoy, an early maturing, heavy seed yielder," says Mr. Arny, "is one of the coming soybeans for seed production and for hogging off. It yields more seed per acre than the later maturing varieties and ripens about August 20. Small amounts of the seed of this variety will be available this year. Minnesota needs soybean seed. Why not arrange now to produce seed of the right varieties for yourself and your neighbors next year?"

BEET GROWER CAN
MAKE GOOD SIRUP

Shortage of sugar need have no terrors for the sugar beet grower. A rich sweet sirup that can be used for all cooking purposes, serving as a substitute for sugar, can be made from sugar beets, according to the investigations of the federal department of agriculture and chemists of the Minnesota college of agriculture. A bushel of good beets will make from three to five quarts of sirup. The beets in the quantity mentioned should be cut into thin slices and put in a barrel or wash boiler and covered with boiling water and allowed to stand for about an hour. The water should then be drawn off and strained through a cloth into a kettle or wash boiler for evaporation. When the sirup has been sufficiently concentrated by the process of boiling it down it should be poured while hot into sterilized glass jars or tin cans and closed tight. Beets that have been stored several months can be converted into good sirup provided they were fully mature when harvested.

QUEEN BEE PRICES
ADVANCED AT "U"

Owing to the advanced cost of labor and material, the price of queen bees sent out by the division of bee culture, University Farm, St. Paul, for the season of 1920, has been raised to \$1 for untested queen bees and \$1.50 for tested. The number of queen bees allowed one beekeeper will be limited to five untested and one tested. Francis Jager, chief of the division, and G. C. Matthews will be personally in charge of queen bee raising at the University Farm.

TIPS ON CURING FOR
HAM-BACON SHOW

Rules for preparing sugar cured hams and bacon are outlined by Philip A. Anderson, assistant professor of animal husbandry, on the eve of the Ham and Bacon Show to be held at University Farm on Farmers' and Home-makers' Week. When the carcass of the hog has been thoroughly cooled, he says, it should be cut into suitable pieces and rubbed with fine salt and kept over night in this manner. The next day pack the meat in jars of required size or in good clean oak barrels.

A good brine can be made by dissolving in four gallons of water eight to ten pounds of salt, two pounds of sugar (cane or good grade of brown), and two ounces of salt-peter (pulverized) for every 100 pounds of meat. Boil and skim off any substances arising on surface, then cool down to the temperature of the meat before pouring brine on the meat. If not enough to cover it add a little cold water. Put on cover and weight down with a clean stone.

Ham and bacon may be dry cured. For each 100 pounds of pork to be made into dry cured ham and bacon weigh out four pounds of salt, two pounds of sugar, and two ounces of salt-peter. Mix all ingredients thoroughly. Use a third of the mixture at each rubbing of meat. Rub every three days until the mixture is all used. Keep the meat in a cool place three or four weeks when it will be ready for use.

SAVE BEST GRAIN
FOR 1920 PLANTING

Large sized, heavy weight grain seed generally produces healthier and more vigorous plants and increases the chance for a larger yield. This being the case, it is well to hold back enough seed from market so that it may be run through a fanning mill and a percentage of the best selected for the coming crop. If any large amount of grain is to be marketed during the winter it might be worth while to run it through the fanning mill before marketing, saving out the best seed. Weed seed and screenings could be ground and used for feed. At present prices of hay it is poor economy to haul the seed to the elevator and take a heavy dockage, especially if there is any feed value in the dockage. A fanning mill is used only a few days of the year and consequently should give good service to several farmers in a community, especially where the acreage of grain is small. There are several general purpose mills on the market that will do splendid work in all kinds of grain.—L. B. Bassett, assistant professor of farm management, University Farm.

STATE'S FIRST HAM
AND BACON SHOW

A Ham and Bacon Show, the first ever held for Minnesota farmers, will be a new feature of Farmers' and Home-makers' Week, December 29 to January 3, at University Farm. Premiums aggregating \$75 in cash will be awarded for the best exhibits of home cured ham and bacon. A farmer can make one entry in each class—one ham and one strip of bacon. All meat except the prize pieces will be returned to owners or disposed of as they direct. Two thousand persons are expected to attend Minnesota's greatest annual short course and the various meetings of state organizations interested in agriculture and home welfare. Bulletins carrying the extensive program for the week will soon be ready for distribution over the state.

PUREBRED SHOULD
HEAD EVERY HERD

A good purebred bull for every dairy herd, whether composed of scrubs or grades, is recommended by the federal department of agriculture in advices received at University Farm. It is pointed out that the daughters of a scrub cow and a purebred dairy sire are only grades, but that often their production records are double the records of their dams. If these daughters are then bred to firstclass purebred dairy bulls of the same breed and from ancestry of proven merit, the granddaughters may become high grades of large production. In this way each generation may advance to higher levels. The descendants of grade cows and purebred bulls can not be registered, but in production of milk and butterfat they may equal purebreds.

CROP IMPROVEMENT
MEN CALL MEETING

The Minnesota Crop Improvement association will hold a meeting and seed stock exhibit at University Farm on the afternoon of Tuesday, December 30, during Farmers' and Home-makers' Week. Samples of seeds should reach C. P. Bull, the secretary of the association, by December 22 if possible.

MILK PAIL'S CARE
IS GOOD BUSINESS

There is no royal way to take proper care of the milk pail, says Harold Macey, bacteriologist with the dairy division at University Farm. It is a responsibility, requiring real care and labor, that should not be dodged.

Tomorrow morning when you finish milking, he advises, rinse the pails out with cold water, then with some hot water and soap powder scrub them thoroughly with a good brush. Be sure that all the corners and seams are well cleaned. After that, rinse out the pails with warm or hot water. Then scald them with boiling water or steam them if there is some way of getting steam. When you feel that they are absolutely clean turn them upside down on a rack to dry—over a heater or out in the sunlight.

When you are ready to milk in the evening, you will find the pails clean, dry, and sweet. The bacteria have had a very hard day of it. Handle the pails as carefully after the evening milking. When the fresh milk enters these pails, it will find a clean berth. In its journey to the factory, it should travel in cans as clean as the pails, for they should be as carefully cared for. You are thus producing better and safer milk, one more valuable as food and as a source of income.

COCKROACH PEST;
HOW TO FIGHT IT

The German cockroach does about all the damage and is responsible for most of the annoyance caused by members of the roach family in hotels, restaurants, bakeries, laundries, and even homes in Minnesota. There is nothing dainty or nice about the cockroach. It will dine on the filthiest refuse as well as the choicest of pastries and meats. It is therefore a factor in spreading disease germs. V. R. Haber, entomologist, has made a study of the cockroach pest in Minnesota and the best methods of controlling it. His findings have been set forth in a new experiment station bulletin which anyone can obtain by applying to the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

RED DURUM HELD
NOT PROFITABLE

A. C. Arny, associate professor of farm crops at University Farm, says that Red Durum wheat, known as "D5," put out originally by the North Dakota station, but recalled by it on account of lack of milling quality, should not be grown by Minnesota farmers.

"It is a low yielder as compared with good Durum varieties," says Mr. Arny, "and is low in milling value. Furthermore, Red Durum wheat of any kind brings 10 to 15 cents a bushel less than the Yellow Durum on the terminal markets and there is a reason for it. Therefore, avoid growing Red Durum wheat of any kind. If in doubt send in a sample for identification.

"The best Durum variety for Minnesota at present is Mindum, Minnesota No. 470," continues Mr. Arny. "This is a yellow wheat, fairly rust resistant and a high yielder. Some seed of this variety is available for distribution at University Farm and a greater amount at the Crookston station."

EDITOR'S CORNER

Tribute to Home Paper

"The country newspaper," says an unidentified eastern writer, "carries to the fireside a record of happenings that are of more importance to the readers than the crowning of George V as emperor of India. The country newspaper is of inestimable value in maintaining the moral and financial standard of the community. It is something in which the entire neighborhood can feel a common interest. It is deserving of the steady support, not only of the home folks, but also of those who look back with cherished memories to their life in the country town."

News In Advertising

An Iowa farmer says there was a time when he looked with unfriendly eye upon the advertising that filled so much space in his country newspaper. "But in our home now," he writes, "we find as much news in the advertising as in the locals. It's a different kind of news—buying news—but it's worth while in dollars and cents."

It's a Community Newspaper

Don't call it a country weekly but a community newspaper, because that is what the home paper is, suggests an Ohio writer.