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EDITOR'S COLUMN

Upon the rural press of America rests the fate of civilization.—Arthur James Balfour.

TYPICAL COMMUNITY PAPER

The Sherburne County Star-News, published at Elk River by A. N. and L. A. Dare, divides its reading matter space about equally between town and country. A recent issue contained about a half page of country correspondence, and nearly half of the first page, the "show window" of the paper, was given to stories concerning the farm. The Star-News is well supported by farmers; fully one-half of the display advertising of its issue of March 11 originated on Sherburne county farms.

OLDEST MEEKER COUNTY PAPER SOLD

Sale of the News-Letter, which is said to be the oldest newspaper in Meeker county, is reported in dispatches from Litchfield. C. W. Wagner and H. E. Peterson, newspaper publishers of the place, were the buyers. The News-Letter will be discontinued.

\$2,000 POSITION OPEN

A successful newspaper publisher in one of South Dakota's best cities will pay up to \$2,000 a year for an all-around editor—one who can write editorials, select and head up copy and take full charge of the local news field. The paper is a weekly of 16 pages, all home print, and has splendid standing in its field. Practical newspaper men who want to investigate this opening further should write to the Office of Publications at University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING HELD BEST

That farming, the biggest business in the world, and advertising, the greatest selling force, need to get together, was one of the points strongly emphasized at a community newspaper conference held in connection with farmers' week at Cornell university. It was agreed that no publisher should sell his space for less than 20 cents an inch. Good as a bill or circular may be, it was also agreed that an advertisement in the local paper is much better. It was felt that what ads, if properly worded, have real selling force. "Man, these are real apples, Kings, the kind I eat myself. A bushel delivered at your door will cost only \$3." This will sell more apples, it was declared, than "For sale—King apples, \$3 a bushel."

HOME PAPER SHOULD COME FIRST

Because a man's great need is to be in touch with his nearest environment, the editor of Progressive Farmer tells his readers to take their home paper first of all. "A man cannot do the work of a good citizen unless he is in touch with affairs, movements and events of his own locality," says the editor.

WHY COW-TESTING PAYS

Cow-testing pays because it is a check on the individuals of the herd and exposes those which are merely boarders. Reports received at University Farm show that 56 cows listed in the association at Victoria, Minn., produced more than 40 pounds of butterfat during February. A cow owned by H. C. Wagner of the Victoria community produced 99.7 pounds of butterfat during the 29 days. This was the high record in the state for the month.

HERALD-DISPATCH INCORPORATES

W. R. Hodges, O. A. Green, and A. J. Henle have incorporated a company for the publication of the Herald-Dispatch, at Sleepy Eye. Mr. Hodges is president of the company, Mr. Green is secretary and Mr. Henle treasurer. The first named has been publisher of the paper for the last 30 years and has built it up until it is one of the high class weeklies of the state. The active management of the paper, says Mr. Hodges in a signed statement, will be in the hands of his two associates, who are young and aggressive.

LET-UP IN ADVERTISING COSTLY

Associated Advertising believes that a let-up in advertising is bound to prove costly. It cites the case of A. and P. Pears, the British soap makers, whose goods were made familiar all over the world by persistent and clever advertising. When the factory was selling all it could produce, the directors stopped all advertising as an unnecessary expense. In six months the business had fallen off 35 per cent. Millions had to be spent by the firm to get back its lost prestige and trade.

EDITORS' SHORT COURSE PLANS NOW RAPIDLY TAKING SHAPE

Here are some of the things down for the annual short course for editors to be held at University Farm Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 29 and 30, and May 1. Every one of the things listed is by some one WHO KNOWS, from the "Warming Up" dinner on Thursday evening and the speakers who will follow that clear through to the end. (The after-dinner speaker for the "Warming Up" dinner—not to be a "warmed up" dinner, understand—is a western product, a man few of the editors have heard, but a man who thinks and has the ability to tell what he thinks in a way to make it stick.

But, to start over again, here is a condensed list of the things so far scheduled:

The fine art of writing and playing up news.

Getting into personal relations with readers through editorials in a way to make them friends of the paper.

Making the type-setting machine pay.

Cost systems that pay, and then some.

Advertising printing that pulls.

Educating the local merchant—a plan with a kick in it.

Getting local merchants into line through merchandizing surveys.

Writing "ads" that bring returns to the merchant; and, of course, to you.

A cost system "revival meeting" with the Billy Sunday of the printing business there "to settle the question for good."

The proceedings will begin Thursday afternoon at 2 and continue until Saturday at noon. Dormitory rooms can be arranged for right on the campus and meals can be had at the new cafeteria at whatever prices one cares to pay, according to his appetite.

Come early. Get a flying start Thursday afternoon for the dinner Thursday evening. Help to make this the best short course the editors of Minnesota have ever had and to point the way to better courses in the future.

CREATE FINE HERD BY KEEPING RECORDS

Conrad Meister of Carlos, Minn., has built up a fine dairy herd by using a good sire and culling out all inferior cows. It has taken time and patience, but his reward has been worth while.

According to Mr. Meister, his first purebred Holstein bull was purchased 10 years ago when his herd consisted of a bunch of cows of no particular line of breeding. He has shown his progressive spirit by keeping milk records of each cow since that time. As a result, he now has a nice herd of high grade Holsteins which averaged 7,889 pounds of milk and 286 pounds of fat last year.

"These figures," says C. H. Eckles, chief of the division of dairy husbandry at University Farm, "while not out of reach of anyone who will go in for herd improvement in earnest, are very creditable. Bear in mind that the owner, in this case, kept his own records, not having the assistance of a cow-testing association, but has surpassed the average records of such associations. His figures for butterfat are all fully 100 pounds per cow above the state average, and 100 pounds of butterfat these days means \$65 to \$80.

"Mr. Meister has demonstrated that getting a good herd of profitable cows does not depend upon luck or the investment of a large amount of capital, but rather upon persistently following the well-known paths to success—intelligent feeding, use of purebred sire and keeping records of individual cows so that all unprofitable stock can be discarded."

TUBERCULAR LOSSES IN POULTRY HEAVY

Tuberculosis causes enormous losses among poultry in Minnesota, according to Dr. C. P. Fitch, chief of the division of veterinary medicine of the Minnesota college of agriculture. The symptoms are emaciation, lameness and often diarrhoea. Difficulty in breathing is sometimes noted.

"All the organs of the fowl may be affected," says Dr. Fitch, "but the liver in particular is likely to show the tubercles. These appear as yellowish-white spherical areas in the liver and often in the spleen. Also nodules or lumps of from one-sixteenth to one-eighth of an inch or larger in diameter may be found on the intestines. The tuberculin test is not widely used among fowls.

"There is no specific cure for tuberculosis whether in humans, animals or birds. The keynote is prevention. If the flock is small and of no great value it is best to kill all the birds, carefully clean and disinfect the pens and yards and start anew. Spread of the disease in large and valuable flocks can sometimes be checked by killing the birds which display the symptoms and giving the premises a thorough cleaning up. Experiments have shown that it is possible for the bacilli to be transmitted to the egg, but this is not common.

COWS IN PASTURE NEED SOME GRAIN

L. V. Wilson of University Farm, agent in dairying for the United States department of agriculture, advises against the discontinuance of grain feed when the cows are turned out first to pasture. Some grain must still be fed, he says, if a consistent milk flow and the average weight of the cows are to be maintained. Changing from grain feeds to pastures can be overdone, he adds, for the reason that it is impossible for the cows to get the same amount of nourishment from a day's grazing that they may obtain from two or more regular feedings of concentrates. "We usually notice," he says, "an increase in milk production following the change from barn confinement to the freedom of the green pasture. However, we are running the danger of reducing the weight of our cows, consequently putting a greater strain upon their system, if we do not tide them over through the first few weeks with some amount of grain."

EAR TESTING OF SEED CORN URGED

Testing of all corn to be used for seed this spring is recommended by R. C. Dahlberg, head of the state seed laboratory at University Farm. Corn that was picked before frosts and wet weather, he says, is of excellent quality, but corn that was picked late has been seriously affected. Mr. Dahlberg further recommends that all oats, wheat and barley be carefully screened to remove the large amount of small and light seed. Even with this precaution, however, he believes it will be necessary to plant more than the usual amount of seed to the acre in order to insure a full stand. In many instances it may be advisable to use seed of the 1918 crop.

FARM'S RECEIPTS IN A YEAR \$8,584

Gundar Byhaug of Dawson, Lac qui Parle county, and the state of Minnesota, represented by the extension division of the college of agriculture, are co-operators in the farming business. Mr. Byhaug furnishes all the capital and does much of the work and planning. The state's share in such "partnerships" is to counsel and advise so that operations may be methodical and safe, to weed the drones out of herds and flocks, to see that marketing is done to the best advantage and to hold public demonstrations on the farm. The Byhaug demonstration farm had gross receipts in 1919 as follows:

Sales of milk and cream	\$5,136
Sales of cattle	1,108
Sales of hogs	1,881
Sales of poultry	170
Miscellaneous receipts	289

Total \$8,584

After paying all expenses and deducting 5 per cent on a farm investment of \$26,640, Mr. Byhaug's labor income, or net receipts, for the year was \$3,333. The gross receipts per acre for the 160 acres constituting the farm averaged \$53, despite the fact that the tile drainage system, which was put in before co-operation was established with the University, became overloaded and that 50 acres of crops were destroyed by standing water.

Mr. Byhaug's dairy consists of 20 head of purebred and grade Holsteins. All milk and cream were sold to patrons at Dawson. Purebred Duroc hogs and purebred Plymouth Rock chickens are kept on the farm. Practically all the feed consumed by the stock was grown on the place. Fifteen acres of alfalfa furnished roughage which was supplemented by a large quantity of good silage.

WILD VETCH SEED CAN BE FED HOGS

When the question has been asked of members of the Minnesota experiment station staff, "Is wild vetch a safe feed?" the only reply heretofore has been, "We do not know; there are no experiments on the subject; we do know that the seeds contain prussic acid, but whether this acid is present in sufficient quantity to injure animals has never been determined." However, R. C. Ashby, formerly in charge of the swine investigations of the division of animal husbandry at University Farm, and R. A. Gortner, chief of the division of agricultural biochemistry, instituted some experiments to test the question of toxicity and their findings are recorded in a paper which will appear shortly in the Breeders' Gazette of Chicago.

The wild vetch seed contained, on the air-dry basis, 0.0033 per cent of prussic acid, 9.55 per cent water, 3.10 per cent ash, 24.06 per cent protein, 2.46 per cent fat, 11.25 per cent crude fiber, and 49.58 per cent carbohydrates. The feeding value is apparently not as high as one would expect from the protein content. Nevertheless, pigs having access to wild vetch seed in self-feeders, where corn feed meal, barley feed, rye middlings, and ground wild vetch seed were supplied separately, consumed an average of 0.4 pounds of ground vetch seed per day, or 6.34 per cent of their total ration. In all experiments where wild vetch seed was mixed with other grains there was no evidence that the presence of the wild vetch seed made the feed distasteful, the pigs eating their feed with every indication of relish.

No toxic properties were observed and the authors conclude that, at least for pigs, there is no danger of prussic acid poisoning when the vetch seed fed averages 1.5 per head per day. This was the maximum amount fed in any of the experiments, but in all probability the toxic limit, if such exists, is considerably in excess of 1.5 pounds.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

April 1 to 8, 1920

The fuchsia makes a splendid house plant when well grown.

Plant smooth peas, onion seed and onion sets as soon as the ground can be worked in the spring.

Try a few new things each year but don't depend much on them until they have proved their value.

Sweet peas should be planted just as early as possible. They delight in cool moist weather.

Seed the new lawn just as early as the soil can be put into good condition.

It pays to prune the orchard and berry patch. Do it now. Spray also and clean marketable fruit will result.

Asparagus is one of the most useful of garden vegetables in the spring. Plant a large bed of it this spring.

Do not let seedlings crowd and get spindling in seed pan. Transplanting will tend to keep them stocky and better able to stand planting out.

Progressive and Minnesota 1017 are excellent autumn bearing strawberries. Plant them early and they will give a good supply of fruit in the autumn.

Good deep rich soil and pure Kentucky blue grass seed make good lawns. Weedy lawns are a result of poor soil or sometimes too much shade. Spade up weedy patches, put in well rotted manure and if need new soil and re-sow with Kentucky blue grass; add a little clover and red top for quick growth.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

April 8 to 15, 1920

It is not too late to do top working of apple or plum trees.

Set all plants firmly in the ground (at the root tips). Keep the top soil loose.

Varieties of fruits from the fruit farm are soon to be named. This will be less confusing than the number method.

A flower border should have a good background of shrubs or tall flowers. This green background shows up the flowers to better advantage.

Rhubarb hills may be hastened by putting a glass frame over them and banking around the sides with manure.

Plant out the bulbs or tulips, daffodils and hyacinths in the garden or perennial border as soon as possible. They will flower later in the year.

Grapes should be heavily pruned to get the best results. This pruning is best done in autumn before the vine is laid down. Summer pruning should also be practiced.

Harden off all plants before planting in the garden by reducing the heat and water given them. This hardens the tissue and makes the plant better able to withstand the outdoor conditions.

Petunias are old fashioned but there are few plants that will succeed as well under all sorts of conditions.

Beekeepers have found that the dandelion furnished the bees some honey in 1919. With most of us this would not be a strong enough argument to continue growing the plant as freely as some do grow it. LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

PEOPLE ON FARMS LIVE THE LONGEST

Life on the farm is the healthiest and safest, according to statistics compiled by the United States bureau of labor showing the average age at death in various occupations. The farmer and farm laborer live longer than other workers. This does not "seem longer," which, it will be remembered, is the point in the old joke concerning the longevity of married folk contrasted with bachelors and spinsters—it is longer, and official research records prove it. Farmers live to the average age of 58.5 years, blacksmiths are given three years less of life, and masons and bricklayers die at an average age of 55. The list tapers down to bookkeepers and office assistants who are given an average life of no more than 36.5 years.

MINNESOTA SHOULD GROW MORE BARLEY

Farm crops authorities agree that more barley should be grown in Minnesota. Points in its favor are thus "boiled down" by Harry V. Harlan of the federal department of agriculture in a bulletin which can be secured on application to the office of publications, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.:

"Barley is an excellent grain feed for stock, being almost the equal of corn. It, however, competes with corn in few places, as it is mostly grown outside the limits of profitable corn culture. It produces more pounds to the acre than oats or wheat. If necessary, it can be seeded later than spring wheat, and hence interferes little with the wheat acreage in the spring wheat region. It supplies the grain feed necessary for the increase of livestock, which sometime must come with diversified farming in the areas where grain farming is now the only enterprise.

"The best lands for barley are well drained soils that are not sandy. The best returns are obtained from early seeding. The best method of preparation is fall plowing, the best method of seeding is with a drill, and the best method of harvesting is with a binder. The grain should not be threshed too close, as broken kernels lower the market value."

The best-yielding varieties for Minnesota, adds Mr. Harlan, are Manchuria and Oderbrucker.

INOCULATION HELPS THE SPRING SEEDING

Inoculation helps the spring seeding of alfalfa, white sweet clover and soybeans. This may be accomplished by using a pound of well inoculated soil, taken from fields where these legumes have been grown successfully, for each bushel of seed. The soil should be sifted to the consistency of dust and always kept in the shade. Inoculating, says A. C. Army, in charge of the farm crops section of University Farm, may be done in the following manner:

"For each bushel of seed to be inoculated dissolve in a pint of water a quarter of a cupful of sugar or two ounces of glue. 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, it should be kept from exposure to the sun, since sunlight kills 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."

MONEY MADE BY EARLY HATCHING

Poultrymen of University Farm emphasize the importance of early hatching. Early hatched chicks, it has been observed, make better growth than those hatched late.

A member of the faculty of the Ontario agricultural college says that a difference of three weeks in the time of hatching made a difference of \$1.50 a bird in the average profit from the yearly egg yield of Barred Rock pullets in the institution's flock.

White Leghorn pullets at the University of Missouri were grouped on June 1 according to their egg production from November 1 to May 31. The results were as follows:

Egg production Nov. 1 to May 31	Average date of hatching
More than 100 eggs	March 29
90 to 100 eggs	March 30
80 to 90 eggs	April 7
70 to 80 eggs	April 15
60 to 70 eggs	April 21