

UNIVERSITY FARM PRESS NEWS

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

VOL. XI

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., JULY 15, 1920

NO. 14

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.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Community's Relations to the Press
S. L. Frazier makes a plea for the support of his home town paper, the Verdale Sun. "To be niggardly," he says, "with out local paper is to be short-sighted and blind to our own interests. The Sun is a live wire, but will soon burn itself out unless given generous support. The country newspaperman does the most work for the least pay of anybody. Why is it we expect the editor to do so much for us while we do nothing for him? Perhaps we do not even subscribe for his paper, but how we howl and growl and snarl and criticize if he fails to holler his head off for every proposition that comes up, from good roads and baseball to church suppers and society doings."

Northern Editors at Play

Northern Minnesota editors are holding their annual association outing at Crosby in the beautiful Cuyuna iron ore country. A feature this year is a series of races and games for the editorial championship of the state. Supply house associations of the Twin Cities have hung up prizes worth \$200. The Cuyuna range is dotted with lakes and beauty spots and in summer is ideal for recreation purposes.

Can Turn Out More Operators

Delegates from Minnesota to the National Editorial association meeting at Boston obtained five additional linotypes for the Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis by presenting the necessity and making an appeal to the president of the Mergenthaler Linotype company. Operators for the printing offices of the northwest are trained at Dunwoody and the output will now more nearly meet the demand than ever before.

Editors to Florida in 1921

The city of Miami, Florida, will entertain the National Editorial association a year hence. It is regarded likely that the excursion which always follows the annual meeting will take the delegates to Cuba and perhaps to Panama.

President Wilke Bereaved

While Will Wilke, editor of the Grey Eagle Gazette, was in Boston attending the meeting of editors and soon after he had been elected president of the national association, he was advised that his mother had been fatally injured in a tornado which destroyed the Wilke cottage, Twin Oaks, at Birch lake in Todd county. His brothers of the press have done what they could to lighten the blow by extending their heartfelt sympathy.

Power of the Printed Word

The printed word is more powerful than the spoken word. That is why advertising has become one of the greatest forces of the modern world. Especially is the printed word destined to become one of the farmers' greatest allies. Farmers' organizations are learning to set aside part of their funds for advertising. By telling the consumers simple truths, the producers can do away with much costly and disagreeable misunderstanding. Advertising has settled several industrial disputes. Truthful publicity has never harmed a worthy cause. The advertising farmer is an enterprising farmer.—Orchard and Garden.

Editors Strong for Land Clearing

Editors of Rusk county, Wisconsin, have adopted the slogan, "6,000 More Cleared Acres in 1920." Once cleared, they know what the land can be counted upon to produce, and so they optimistically call this year's land clearing campaign "Rusk County's \$1,000,000 Land Clearing Contest."

Community Club is Doing Things

Lewiston's Community club is doing things. The town had tried out commercial organizations, but never had a winner until representative groups of business men and farmers got together and formed a club with the real community spirit. According to the Union-Free Press of St. Charles, the club has induced the railroad company to improve its station, has succeeded in bringing the council around to its opinion that town streets should be oiled and has added materially to the educational facilities of the consolidated school district, with reasonable assurance at hand that a new school will be built ere long. The club meets regularly, the paper says, and its members attend and take a keen interest in it.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

July 15 to 22

Keep the tomato plants trimmed and tied up well.

Endive and head lettuce may be sown late this month for fall use.

Spray cucumbers and melons with Bordeaux every three weeks to prevent blight.

Use plenty of fertilizer on the garden now. Many plants may be mulched with decayed straw or straw manure to advantage.

Do not let more than four or five dahlia stalks grow. More crowd too much and result in no flowers or else very poor ones.

Iris may be transplanted during August, September, and even October to advantage. Try growing a few.

Prune out old wood from currants as soon as they are through fruiting. If the plants are old, fertilize well and cultivate the rest of the season.

Make a sowing of carrots, beets, lettuce, etc., for fall and winter use. Celery may still be set out. String beans may also be planted.

According to figures compiled in the Registrar's office, 76 per cent of the graduates of the college of agriculture are making use of their courses in professional work.

Seeds of perennials may be sown now, transplanted later into cold frames or sheltered parts of the garden and set out permanently next spring.

The hybrid rosa rugosas are worth planting on home grounds because of the flowers, foliage and bright fruit in late autumn. They are easily propagated either from seed or layers.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

July 22 to 29

Next month is a good time to bud apple trees. Try working a few.

When watering a lawn or plants, be thorough. Put on enough to wet clear to the roots. Cultivation should follow at once.

Keep sweet peas and nasturtiums picked every day, if you would have your flowering season extend over a long time.

Cover crops may be sown in the orchard now to hold the snow next winter. These will add needed humus to the soil.

Spray rose bushes with arsenate of lead for rose beetles and other eating insects. "Black Leaf 40" or other tobacco preparation will usually get the sucking insects.

If onions are growing slowly, it is sometimes a good plan to scatter nitrate of soda, or even dry chicken manure, and work it into the soil.

Give gladioli plenty of water when the buds begin to show. Most plants use more water at flowering time than any other season of their growth.

Send to the Experiment Station at Urbana, Illinois, for their bulletin on snapdragon rust. It gives lots of good information about snapdragon trouble.

Indications are now that tulips are going to be of good quality as they have had a good season for growth in Holland from where most of our bulbs come.

Strawberries may be planted now if there is plenty of moisture in the soil. It is well to move them with a good ball of earth on the roots, or else use potted plants.

Now is a good time to prepare land for setting trees and shrubs. If it is put in shape now, the work of planting next season will be much easier.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

CLEARING UP LAND
GOOD INVESTMENT

A. J. McGuire, reclamation and dairy specialist with the agricultural extension division at University Farm, says there has never been a time when there was so great assurance that it pays to clear land, as at the present. Mr. McGuire has been over all parts of northern Minnesota many times, and for several years was superintendent of the experiment station at Grand Rapids. He gives three reasons why cutover land should be cleared and put to practical agricultural use:

First. To make a farm self supporting. There is nothing so important in beginning farming on cutover land as the clearing of sufficient land at once to make the land self supporting.

Second. The cost of clearing land this year, as was the case 10 years ago, is generally returned in the first two or three crops, and not infrequently in the first crop.

Third. The market value of the farm is generally in proportion to the number of acres cleared. Mr. McGuire holds that the future of the cutover country as a great dairy and general farming section is no longer an experiment. "We know what it will be from what it is now," he says.

BARBERRY CARRYING
RUST TO THE GRAIN

Common barberry bushes, many of which are growing on farms in the northwest, are heavily laden with stem rust spores that may be transmitted to adjacent grain fields. This is the verdict of Dr. E. C. Stakman, of the Minnesota college of agriculture, who has been making extensive observations in the grain-growing belt, Dr. Stakman says:

"Weather conditions late in June and early in July are favorable to the development of stem rust, the kind that has caused such heavy losses of grain in past years. Bushes of the common barberry type are almost universally covered with rust. The first to be found this year in Minnesota date back to May 10. Barberry bushes still remaining on farms are centers of infection for the spread of stem rust all over the state. They will serve as continuous sources of the rust that kills the grain. Only protracted clear, dry weather will prevent the spread of the rust from barberry to wheat."

The active field campaign against the barberry is being directed this year, as in the past, by Dr. E. M. Freeman, chief of the plant division of the Minnesota college of agriculture, with L. M. Melander of the federal department of agriculture in immediate charge. Authority is given the state entomologist by law to destroy the bushes at the expense of the owner of the land upon which they are growing when the latter neglects or refuses, after due notice, to destroy them.

MAKE CHEESE NOW
FOR WINTER'S USE

"Why not make cheese now for your winter supply?" asks J. R. Keithley, of the division of dairy husbandry at University Farm. "At this season," he says, "usually a surplus of milk is found on farms and generally spare time available for doing the work. Of the many varieties of cheese the Gouda is best suited and adapted to farm home manufacture. It can be made in about one hour with the equipment and apparatus available in any well regulated farm home."

"Gouda cheese is made from sweet whole milk, and is as nutritious as the American factory made cheese. An ordinary wash boiler serves very satisfactorily as a vat."

The equipment needed, also the method of making, are explained fully in the University of Minnesota Special Bulletin No. 12, which can be obtained by addressing the dairy division, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota. Cheese made and cured according to the directions in this bulletin should be ready to eat in from three to eight weeks.

SEED OF CLOVER
SCARCE AND HIGH

Andrew Boss, vice director of the Minnesota Experiment station at University Farm, believes that clover seed will be a profitable crop again this year and that where the second crop of clover can be spared from the feed supply it would be well to save it for seed. At last year's price, he declares, it may be profitable to save the clover for seed and buy other forage to take its place.

"On such questions as these," says Mr. Boss, "the farmer will have to use his own judgment. The clover seed crop is needed, but it is never good policy to run short of feed. If it can be spared for seed, the chances are it will be a profitable crop. Last year it was one of the best cash crops grown in some sections of the state."

"To get a good crop of seed of medium red clover the first crop should be cut in good season. If it can be made into hay on or before July 1, the chances for it to make a good seed crop are considerably improved."

VINEGAR AND HONEY
BEES NOT RELATED

Vinegar bee should not be confused with the honey bee. True, both have a sting in a different degree, but the vinegar bee looks like a small section of a head of cauliflower and is used by the progressive housewife in making vinegar. Circular No. 6 by Lavinia Stinson of the division of home economics, University Farm, says that the making of vinegar consists of the addition of vinegar yeasts and vinegar bacteria to a sugary liquid. "Although little that is definite is known about the vinegar bee," says Miss Stinson, "a study of it seems to indicate that it is a mixed culture of vinegar yeasts and bacteria." The circular tells how vinegar may be made from the "bee." Copies will be mailed to those applying for them to the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

A KNOCK-OUT BLOW
FOR QUACK GRASS

Quack grass, Canada thistle, perennial sow thistle, etc., which spread both by seed and underground parts, should be cut before blossoming time because all blossoms do not appear at the same time and seed is well formed in some before others show up. Care should be taken that they are not allowed to form seed, says A. C. Army, University Farm, St. Paul.

When the plants are cut off, tar paper may be placed over occasional small spots in fields. The tar paper should lap four to six inches and extend four to six feet beyond the outside edges of such spots. The high cost of tar paper makes this method rather expensive for material but the labor cost is light.

For larger areas, clean cultivation is the most practical method. The only successful way is to give the cultivation when it is needed no matter what the other work may be. Such a plan, however, makes it necessary to limit the eradication operations to such a sized field as can be handled with the other farm work. Plowing quack grass infested land which has been to clover this year as soon as the first crop is removed and keeping it absolutely free from all green plants from then on to freezing-up time, continuing this in the spring until corn planting time and then plant to corn and keeping the crop clean, usually deals the weeds a knock-out blow without losing a crop. The plow, disk and spring tooth harrow are the only implements needed to do efficient work.

CARE IN CANNING
IS LIFE INSURANCE

Care in canning home products protects the life and health of members of the family, say the extension workers among women at the University Farm. With proper care there is every reason why home canned foods should be as safe as any other products used in the household.

Care of this kind means simply following some standard rules for canning and the inspection of the canned products when opened for use.

The inspector, on opening a can, should note whether there is any escaping gas, whether the contents have the proper color, texture, and odor. Extensive experiments have shown that a product right in odor and appearance is safe to taste, and if proper in taste is safe for food.

BETTER-HEN DRIVE
AIDED BY STATE

A drive on the scrub hen will be made during August, September, and October by forces representing the extension division of the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Farm Bureau and poultry organizations in various counties.

County agents and home demonstration agents have asked for assistance in putting on the demonstrations and the university will send them N. E. Chapman, poultry extensionist of University Farm; C. E. Brown, poultry extensionist with the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston, and Miss Annabell Campbell, of the office of extension work, with women, University Farm.

The scrub hen is to be ousted by the proper culling of farm flocks. The oldest and fattest fowls are generally the poorest layers and they must go to make room for better stock. Fowls of medium class which show a fair profit will be retained. Hens suitable for breeding stock will, of course, be given leading place in the flocks.

CEMENT MIXTURES
FOR USE ON FARM

Constantly increasing use of cement on farms in making repairs, laying sidewalks and floors and erecting buildings is reported. In cement work a 1-2-3 mixture means that to each sack of cement there are two cubic feet of sand and four cubic feet of gravel or crushed stone. The sand fills the spaces between the particles of gravel and the cement fills the spaces between the particles of sand. Sand passes through a No. 4 screen, that is, a screen having four spaces to the linear inch. The spaces are about five inches long. Gravel is retained by a No. 4 screen. H. B. White of University Farm, who is a member of the staff of agricultural engineering, approves a mixture of "1-2-3" for basement, poultry house, hog house and cow barn floors, which should range in thickness from three inches in the case of poultry house floors to four and one-half inches for cow barn floors. Sidewalks should be four and one-half inches thick and made of a "1-2-3" mixture, which is also recommended for posts, tanks and troughs. Horse barn floors of the "1-2-3" ratio should be five and one-half inches in thickness.

ARMY WORM COMING
SO THE SIGNS SAY

The true army worm is likely to be marching for an attack on Minnesota crops, or actually attacking them about August 1, says Wm. C. Cook of the entomology division, Minnesota Experiment station. Mr. Cook bases his statement on the fact that a large number of adult moths of the army worm have been collected, indicating that a good deal of damage may be caused by the summer generation of the worm.

The army worm may be controlled by poisoned bran bait, made of 50 pounds of bran, 2 pounds of paris green or white arsenic, mixed together dry, and then moistened with half a gallon of cheap molasses dissolved in from 8 to 10 quarts of water.

If the worms are moving from one field to another, this bait may be sown thickly in a furrow plowed ahead of the worms. If they are not moving, it may be sown broadcast in the infested field.

County agents should report at once any infestations to the State Entomologist, University Farm, St. Paul.

Cutworms seem to have been kept in check this year by natural enemies and by parasites. At least, a large percentage of the small number collected have been found to be carrying parasites.

FIRE BLIGHT ATTACKS
STATE'S APPLE TREES

The spread of fire blight among Minnesota apple trees has become very serious, according to E. C. Stakman of the Minnesota experiment station. It is likely to result in the loss of many trees, not only from the blight itself, but from black-rot canker and wood-rot in the next two or three years unless checked. Black-rot canker and wood-rot are evils which nearly always follow the blight.

The fire blight is spread almost entirely by insects. While spraying will not check the blight itself it will destroy the insects which spread the blight and thus help to save apple trees. The Wealthy and crab apple trees are most susceptible.

Along with spraying to control insects should go the removal of watersprouts, suckers, and small spurs on tree trunks.

The knife is needed to fight the blight once it gets into a tree, says R. S. Mackintosh of the extension division at University Farm. Blighted twigs should be cut off six or more inches below the point at which the disease shows, and the knife, pruning shears or saw used should be sterilized in a solution of bichloride of mercury (corrosive sublimate) after each cut. This solution is a deadly poison if taken internally and should be used with great care. The mixture used is 1 part bichloride to 1,000 parts of water. In the fall and winter tree trunks and branches should be carefully examined for cankers. These should be cut out and the wounds sterilized.

THREE NEW MEN
ON BOTANY STAFF

The staff of the division of botany and plant pathology at University Farm has been reinforced by L. G. Leach, J. L. Seal, and C. H. Hursh who will fill vacancies caused by resignations and departures. Mr. Leach succeeds Guy R. Bisby who resigned to go to the department of Agriculture of the University of Manitoba. Mr. Leach is a graduate of the University of Tennessee. He won his masters' degree in 1917 after doing two years of graduate work at University Farm. He will be assistant pathologist with the rank of instructor.

Mr. Seal is a graduate of the South Carolina agricultural college and obtained his master's degree at Ames in 1916. He has been an extension pathologist with the South Carolina institution. His work at University Farm will be with fruit and tree diseases. His rank will be that of instructor.

Mr. Hursh is a graduate of the University of Missouri and has been with the federal offices of cereal investigations. Just before coming to University Farm he was engaged in graduate work at the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis. He will do graduate work and study rust on cereals.