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## EDITOR'S COLUMN

FALL SEED CORN TIME  
CAMPAIGN IS COMING

The agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota is making plans for an exceptionally vigorous seed corn campaign next month—September 10-20.

The corn crop is so important to the prosperity of the state of Minnesota that the division believes it is worth while to interest every last farmer who grows corn in selecting seed this fall for next year's planting.

To make a careful selection of seed corn during the seed corn time goes far toward assuring for the farmer two things:

A larger yield of corn on a given number of acres the following year.

A very considerable saving in the cost of seed.

Criticism has sometimes been voiced against the University Department of Agriculture for urging upon the farmer the selection of seed corn. The critics have assumed that the farmer knows as much as, or more than, the University Department of Agriculture can tell him. This may be true. The trouble, however, is the farmer does not always act on his knowledge, and the seed corn campaign which the agricultural extension division of the University puts on every fall is designed to move the farmer to action.

That the farmer by on means always does select seed corn carefully is shown by what happened in a certain large corn-producing county in southern Minnesota last fall. The farmers of the county referred to had a splendid crop of corn which matured satisfactorily and was put into the shock or left standing in the field. So certain were the farmers of being able to select their seed corn later that many of them did not select before husking time. Then came wet weather followed by a hard freeze. The result was that the corn in the shock and standing uncut in the field lost much of its value for seed purposes. Consequently when spring came the farmers who had failed to select seed corn at seed corn time—and they were in large majority—found on testing that their seed corn was almost valueless. In the meantime, however, those who had selected seed corn at the proper time and had a surplus had sold their surplus. Those who had failed to select, therefore, were compelled to import seed at high prices. It is just this kind of thing that the agricultural extension division is seeking to provide against.

The agricultural extension division, therefore, is issuing this statement to the editors of the state, confident that the editors will be ready to aid in the coming campaign as a means of increasing the prosperity of the state's farmers and consequently of all of the people of Minnesota. Last year, according to the government agricultural year book, Minnesota farmers planted just a little short of 3,000,000 acres of corn from which they gathered a harvest of 118,000,000 bushels worth at the price ruling December 1 almost \$142,000,000. This was \$18,000,000 more than the crop of 1918 was worth at the same period.

## Editors Guests of Crosby

Two hundred editors of northern Minnesota, with a sprinkling from other parts of the state, were the guests of Crosby, the capital of the Cuyuna iron range, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 16-18. And it may be recorded here that every last man Jack present at this outing of the Northern Minnesota Editorial association—of which A. G. Rutledge was, of course, the efficient manager—is ready to testify that there is no hospitality in the world anywhere that is superior to that of the people of Crosby. To adapt the words of a summer resort proprietor in Wisconsin—Crosby is "where hospitality is a religion and the chicken is born fried."

The fact is, such meetings bring the men of the editorial profession together more closely than do the conventions providing for the discussion of craft problems. At these outings men get together in small groups in a more intimate way, and swap experiences and ideas in a manner that is always profitable, consequently, something ought to be done to make these summer outings, planned and executed by the Northern Minnesota association, with Rutledge at the wheel, more popular—state wide. It is up to the editors from other parts of the state to extend the profits of the event to earn association the next time one is sent out. By so doing they will help to extend the profits of the event to every part of Minnesota.

## ORCHARD AND GARDEN

August 1 to 8

Careful packing of fruit or vegetables always pays in better prices paid for the product.

Mulch autumn bearing strawberries with straw or lawn clippings to keep the fruit clean.

Chinese cabbage is finding a place on the market and is gradually coming into general use.

The peach is among the popular fruits for shipping. Only apples, oranges and watermelons are shipped in greater quantities.

Swiss chard, lettuce, and young beets make excellent chicken feed. Chickens especially like lettuce and chard.

A bright, clean, attractive package helps the sale of fruit and vegetables. Anything that appeals to the eye helps the sale.

Blight on apple trees has been especially bad this season. No known remedy other than pruning out infected branches is known.

Cu out the old currant canes and all old raspberry canes as soon as the plants are through fruiting. Burn this trash at once. It is a splendid nesting place for insects and disease.

August and September are Gladioli months. Have you a good collection in your garden? They are among the most useful of autumn flowers.

Rhamnus frangula is one of the interesting shrubs for hedges or for use as a single specimen. Its shiny foliage and changing fruit make it a valuable plant over a long season.

Why not take pains to pick up the papers and trash after that pleasant picnic lunch along the highway or on a lake front? Be thoughtful of others and you will have a better time.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

## ORCHARD AND GARDEN

August 8 to 15

Prunus tomentosus is a good lawn shrub. Its bright edible fruits are desirable in early July.

Boards or paper are good materials for bleaching celery at this time of year. Dirt is apt to cause decay of the stems.

Rosa rubrifolia is one of the best of lawn shrubs throughout the summer. Its purplish leaves give a needed color to the lawn in late summer.

It is time to order tulips, hyacinths and daffodils for Autumn planting. Get a good supply of these this year for the garden and window.

Get ready for state and county fairs. These institutions need the help of every one who grows fruits, vegetables and flowers, to make good exhibits, every one who grows fruits, vegetables teach him something new.

Why try to put all of the flowers in the garden in one vase. Use discretion and do not crowd. Often one rose or one flower is more effective than a dozen. Give each individual plenty of room to show off and do not mix colors.

These are days when lake trips are in order. Some time may well be spent in the woods. There are few more pleasant and interesting places to spend a few days or weeks than the woods of northern Minnesota and Wisconsin.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ADDED EVIDENCE  
AGAINST BARBERRY

This evidence is found in a bulletin just received at University Farm, St. Paul, from the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station at Ames, Iowa. This bulletin which discusses the relation of the barberry to stem rust in Iowa, says that in 1919 sixteen epidemics of stem rust infections were traced directly to the barberry. The infections attacked not only the various wild grasses but spread to oats, wheat, and barley. The eradication of the barberry, says the bulletin, would stamp out these infected centers. Hedges in the country and bushes in the outskirts of towns were found to be the most serious offenders.

FARM BULLETINS  
ARE POSTAGE-FREE

Because many persons applying to the Office of Publications, at University Farm for agricultural extension and Minnesota experiment station bulletins are enclosing stamps to pay postage on such bulletins, the Office of Publications is sending out a notice that bulletins issued both by the extension and the experiment station are carried through the mail without charge. Persons writing to the office, therefore, need not enclose postage.

MAN'S WORST BUG  
ENEMY---HOUSEFLY

The housefly is the most dangerous insect enemy of man. One reads about some of the insects of the tropics or semi-tropics, he is sometimes shivery with horror at the things such insects do, and, if he lives in the temperate zones, he thanks his stars that there are no such "bugs" in his climate. Sometimes even the spider will cause a creepy feeling. Yet the housefly is worse than any of these, because it is a carrier of deadly disease germs, of germs which spread disease and death.

For this reason man should make war on the housefly, and how to do this is told in Special Bulletin No. 48, "How to Fight the Dangerous Housefly," by William A. Riley, chief of the division of entomology, Minnesota College of Agriculture, University Farm, St. Paul. Copies of the bulletin may be had by addressing: Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

LARGER DIVIDENDS  
FROM FRESH COWS

In order to get a good start when she freshens, a cow should have six weeks' rest prior to the new lactation period, says L. V. Wilson, University Farm, St. Paul, agent in dairying for the United States department of agriculture. "Cows that are to freshen in the fall, therefore," adds Mr. Wilson, "should receive the best of care before freshening. It is often impossible to dry a cow up if turned on pasture such as exists this season. It is better to limit her to dry feeds, very little grain, depending on dry roughage such as clover and alfalfa. Having dried the cows off, one may start them if time will permit. A cow in poor condition at the start of her lactation period is not capable of the best, as the feeds she consumes following freshening must be devoted largely to the building up of the body rather than toward the manufacture of milk and butterfat.

THE VINEGAR BEE  
IS NOT AN INSECT

When is a bee not a bee?

When it's a vinegar bee.

The foregoing is a conundrum and its answer which grew out of a bit of news sent out from University Farm two weeks ago. The news item referred to mentioned a circular which tells how vinegar may be made from the so called "bee," which is not an insect at all but apparently a mixed culture of vinegar yeasts and bacteria. In spite of the fact that the item told quite clearly what the vinegar bee is, the entomology division at University Farm, which is the division treating of insects, has been receiving numerous inquiries as to the nature of the "bug". Persons wishing to know more about the vinegar bee should address: Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul. This office will send copies of the circular, without charge, to any inquirer.

BREEDERS SPEND  
\$34,000 FOR TESTS

Official testing of pure bred dairy cows by the dairymen of Minnesota is assuming large proportions, according to a summary of the official testing work for the year ending June 30, just issued by M. H. Fohrman, superintendent of official testing in Minnesota, University Farm.

According to Mr. Fohrman's figures testing was being done last year for 229 breeders. Of these 182 were breeders of Holsteins; 13 of Jerseys; and 27 of Guernseys; 40 Shorthorns and one each of Red Polls, Ayrshires and Brown Swiss. The number of tests made for these breeders was as follows:

Two-day tests, 6,207; seven-day tests, 1,053; thirty-day tests, 81; sixty-day tests, 1.

To do this work cost a total of nearly \$34,000, the chief items of which were \$26,849.06 for testers, \$3,585.19 for traveling expenses for the testers, and \$1,274.50 for supplies. The actual cost of the testing is charged to the breeders for whom the work is done.

The growth of interest in testing is due not only to the fact that testing enables the breeder to get a line on the value of his cows, but in recent years has come to serve as a basis for the market value of pure bred dairy cattle. As a result of the growing interest Mr. Fohrman is planning to issue a monthly newsletter to be circulated among state breeders who are doing testing work.

WORMS ATTACK  
MINNESOTA TREES

Forest tent caterpillars have been doing much damage to deciduous trees, such as basswood, elms, maples, and oaks, in the northern and western parts of Minnesota, reports A. G. Ruggles, state entomologist, University Farm, St. Paul.

The insects make their silken cocoons by July 15, adds Mr. Ruggles. These are easily recognized by sulphur-like particles seen among the threads inside. The caterpillar changes to a pupa late in July, and by August the moths issue from these pupae, and soon form a bridge over the sticky mald in rings around the small twigs, each ring having in it from 150 to 450 eggs. The eggs hatch the following spring, when the young leaves begin to form. The moths prefer the basswood upon which to lay their eggs, and the leaves of these trees are the ones stripped first.

The egg rings on the small twigs of the basswood, and of course sometimes on other trees are conspicuous in the fall, winter, and early spring. At such times, the twigs with their egg rings should be cut off and destroyed. When the caterpillars reach the ground on their silken threads and begin to travel to find another tree, they may be stopped by using a band of tree tanglefoot on the trunks of the trees to be protected. These bands must be very closely watched, because if the insects are at all abundant, they will soon form a bridge over the sticky material for those coming behind. The insects also have a habit of gathering in masses when they are shedding their skins or molting. If the masses are sprayed with kerosene or mashed with a shingle, thousands can be killed. On orchard trees or other small trees, the insects can be readily kept under control by spraying with the ordinary arsenical spray, such as arsenate of lead or paris green.

FARMERS TO AID IN  
TESTING NEW RYE

Minnesota farmers are being asked by the Minnesota Crop Improvement association, says T. E. Orland, University Farm, secretary of the association, has inspected more than 1,000 acres of pedigreed rye of these two varieties and reports that this fall about 20,000 bushels of certified Rosen rye and 10,000 bushels of certified Minnesota No. 2 rye will be available for distribution. The prices will be only a little higher than the market. A seed list can be obtained by writing to Mr. Orland, University Farm, St. Paul.

BULLETIN TELLS  
HOW TO KILL RATS

The warning sent out by the Minnesota Board of Health announcing the danger of a spread of bubonic plague in Minnesota from New Orleans and other cities of the Gulf and along the Mississippi where outbreaks have already occurred, emphasizes the value of Special bulletin No. 32 on "Combating Rats and Mice" by F. L. Washburn of the Minnesota experiment station. This is a four-page circular which tells briefly some of the dangers to which rats expose human bodies and follows this with a description of methods of combating the pest.

Because rats are so dangerous and because they levy a toll of millions of dollars on the food producers of the state, the bulletin suggests a need of systematic warfare against the rat.

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

IOWA EDITORS TO  
TRY NEW PLAN

Iowa's country newspaper men have worked out a plan for the buying of print paper direct from the mills instead of through jobbers. They approved the plan, which involves the organization of a corporation capitalized at \$20,000 to be known as the Iowa Press Co-operative association, at the recent annual country newspaper short course at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa. Two hundred shares in the corporation will be sold at \$100 each. The Iowa publishers estimate that through their new plan they will be able to save from 50 to 100 per cent on the cost of their print paper.

Minnesota publishers will be interested in watching the working out of the Iowa plan.

HELPS TO UNRAVEL  
PEAT LAND PROBLEMS

An important step towards the solution of the great problem of reclaiming Minnesota's 7,000,000 acres of peat soils, about one-eighth of the surface of the state, has been taken by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in the publication of a bulletin on "Agricultural Value and Reclamation of Minnesota's Peat Soils," by F. J. Alway, chief of the department's division of soils.

The bulletin says frankly that many misconceptions as to Minnesota's peat lands and the methods of making them productive have existed and that as a result great sums of money have been spent in digging ditches on the strength of the prevailing belief that drainage alone would make such lands productive. By such drainage the land has often been made so dry that they now produce little or no hay whereas they were once useful for that purpose. Furthermore, being extremely dry, they sometimes become seats of fires and sources of great danger to settlers.

The author believes, on the basis of European experience, that peat lands are eminently adapted for tame meadows and pastures, but are unpromising for forestry. He says they have also been shown to be able to produce good crops of vegetables, forage and grains where the climate permits. The use of bogs for agriculture tends to hasten their development for industrial purposes, such as the manufacture of fuel, power gas, charcoal, stable litter and even paper and textiles.

Drainage, however, is the first essential in reclaiming such soils, but steps in this direction should be taken with caution until those who wish to develop the lands have satisfied themselves by systematic investigations and small scale trials that reclamation will prove profitable.

The author further discusses the desirability of burning the surface layer on peat bogs, the methods of farming, required cost of reclamation and the possibility of simple field tests, along with many of the other subordinate problems.

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

SOW THISTLE IS  
COVERING STATE

The perennial sow thistle, until recently merely a local pest, now threatens the conquest of the entire state. "Its suppression is fast becoming a state-wide problem," says R. C. Dahlberg of the Minnesota seed laboratory at University Farm, St. Paul.

The weed this year has been reported from areas hitherto considered free, adds Mr. Dahlberg. Specimens have been received at the laboratory from Fillmore, Martin, Redwood, Swift, Chippewa and Rice counties, and a great many have been sent in from Ramsey and Hennepin counties, as well as from other places.

This Bolshevik weed, it may now be assumed, is found in practically every county in the state.

For this reason, and because this is the time for farmers to eradicate the weed, the seed laboratory and the people of University Farm are bending their energies to interest the farmers in a movement to suppress the menace to Minnesota's prosperity, now developing so rapidly.

The weed is still comparatively rare in the southern part of the state, but, if not controlled now, the expense of eradication will become enormous. Every farmer is, therefore, being urged to consult his county agent, taking to him any suspicious looking weed growing on the farm. Specimens may also be sent for determination to the Seed Laboratory at University Farm.

QUEENS FOR SALE  
AT \$1.60 A PIECE

Queens are being offered for sale at University Farm, St. Paul, for \$1.50—queen bees, that is. The bee division of the University Department of Agriculture, is making a vigorous effort to encourage the introduction of new blood into the apiaries of the state. It says this is necessary because nearly all bees in the state now are hybrids which are hard to manage and that in many localities bees have been inbred for years. The queens which the division sends out are the leather colored Italian breeding queens. The price for such queens, untested, is \$1, and the price for tested queens is \$1.50. The number of queens allowed one beekeeper will be limited to five untested and one tested.

The offering of these bees is not in the way of a commercial project but is merely one means used by the division to raise the standard of the stock of bees in Minnesota.