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EDITOR'S COLUMN

County Agent Doing Big Things

County Agent Paul Johnson of Martin county is appreciated by his home folks. The Daily Sentinel of Fairmont says that Mr. Johnson's efforts in the direction of better farming have added 10 per cent to the value of Martin county land.

High Praise for Farm Bureau

George A. Cullen, vice president of the North American Fruit Exchange, says the Farm Bureau Federation is the most genuinely representative body in the agricultural life of America today. "I am amazed," he says, "when I think of the extraordinarily rapid and, at the same time, sound and substantial growth which this organization has had. It is unquestionably the most powerful influence known for the betterment of farm life, particularly in its economic phases."

Print Shop Notes

Levang of Lanesboro has moved his newspaper plant into a real home of its own. Levang's Weekly is well edited and printed and has the good opinion of craftsmen generally. Recently it was put on a strictly pay-in-advance basis.

Harry Koepen of the Stewart Tribune tries to be liberal and fair. In giving notice that the subscription price of the Tribune will be advanced to \$2 a year on October 1, he says that subscribers may now renew for as many years as they like at the present rate of \$1.50. The Tribune is a fine country paper and there ought to be a rush at the bargain price.

Home Market by Advertising

One of the speakers before the annual meeting of the Oregon Press Association declared that an average of \$200 worth of surplus farm produce per farm should find its way to special markets, largely in the home community, through advertisements in the community press. "This would be legitimate business for the paper," said the speaker, "because it would be doing a distinct community service. In fact, the farmer needs the service more than the editor needs the business."

Will Have Field Secretary

Publishers of newspapers in South Dakota are planning to put a paid secretary in the field. Iowa and Nebraska, adjoining states, have each set them a forceful example of the benefit a field worker can be to them.

Advertising Indispensable

A writer in Printers' Ink advises manufacturers, boards of directors and business men generally to put advertising on their priority lists and keep it there. He says:

"Advertising has never been and will never be a thing for quitters. Once started it can no more be dispensed with than the front door of a retail store or a firm's letterhead. Until advertising is ranked at least as high as finance, production and distribution in the mind of the average business man, and is a matter of vital concern to the principals in every business, those principals are not fulfilling their duty to the stockholders."

Death of L. M. Mithun

News of the death of L. M. Mithun, editor of The Journal at Buffalo, Minnesota, came as a surprise and shock to his professional friends and acquaintances over the state. He was a successful publisher and had been active in the affairs and councils of the state press association and other fraternal organizations. He was a graduate of the Moorhead normal school and for several years held teaching positions in Minnesota.

WHY CULLING PAYS;
HERE'S AN EXAMPLE

An uncultured flock of 992 hens laid 3,576 eggs in the week before being culled. Seventy-nine weak layers were cast out. The culled flock of 913 came right back the next week with a record of 3,520 eggs, while the 79 culls, living under precisely similar conditions, and doing their very best, were laying only 85 eggs. The market value of the eggs laid by the culls was around \$3.50. The cost of feed alone for them at a cent a day for each hen was \$5.53 for the week. Figures like these, say the poultry specialists at University Farm, show the importance of keeping only the best layers. Lessons driven home in the Farm Bureau's and extension division's campaign for frequent culling of flocks should put thousands of dollars in the pockets of poultry raisers.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

September 15 to 22

Plant tulip bulbs outdoors this month.

Store onions in a cool, well-aired place. Do not put ungraded fruit or vegetables on the market. It pays better to sell each grade separately. Try it.

Geraniums, Christmas cactus, calla, and cyclamen make good flowering house plants for winter.

Spray or wash the foliage of house plants frequently. It will help to keep the plants in better health.

Cuttings of grapes may be taken this month and stored in sand or sawdust until next spring when they may be set out.

What are the most common wild flowers in your vicinity that may be used in decorative work? There should be many in bloom even now.

Asters have been a good flower in most places this year. The addition of lime to most of our soils before the asters are set seems to give better plants.

Squash should be carefully handled from the field to storage if they are to keep well. Place on wooden racks in storage house one layer deep. The house should be warm and have a good circulation of air.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

September 22 to 29

Carrots and beets keep better if a little dry sand is put over them. It prevents drying out.

Hang cabbage in a cool cellar. They may sometimes be wrapped in paper and laid on shelves in a cool cellar.

While many raspberries will come through the winter without protection it is always safer to lay them down and cover with earth.

Currants should have the branches drawn up close together and tied to prevent the snow breaking them down.

As soon as the frost kills the foliage of the grape it may be pruned back and laid on the ground ready to cover with earth.

The Russian Mammoth sunflower is not only ornamental, but the seeds make good chicken feed. The plants make an effective screen.

Husk the popcorn and hang it up in a light airy place. It will dry enough to be used early in the winter.

Apples carefully picked and wrapped in newspaper keep late into the fall and winter if kept cool.

Loveliness, Mrs. Watt, Schwaben, Glory, Bluejay, Empress of India and Niagara are all splendid varieties of gladioli. Now is a good time to order stock for next year's planting.

An attempt is being made to list and describe all the varieties of dahlias under cultivation. Between 5,000 and 6,000 names have been listed and this does not include many foreign kinds.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

DATES ANNOUNCED
FOR DAIRY COURSES

A bulletin of the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota announces that the annual vocational short courses in dairying will be held at University Farm as follows:

Creamery Operators, Jan. 3 to Feb. 12, 1921.
Advanced Creamery Operators, Nov. 15 to 27, 1920.
Ice Cream Plant Operators, Nov. 29 to Dec. 4, 1920.
Cheese Plant Operators, Nov. 15 to Dec. 11, 1920.
Milk Plant Operators, Dec. 6 to 11, 1920.
Creamery Managers' Conference, Jan. 3, 1921.

Lecturers in addition to the regular instructional staff will be Chris Heen, dairy and food commissioner; James Sorenson, secretary Minnesota Creamery Operators' Association; A. J. McGuire, co-operative creameries; Dr. R. W. Archibald, state health department, and A. Rasmussen, creamery by-products.

INCREASED HORSE
PRODUCTION URGED

Horse dealers report a good year. They feel that the horse is "coming back." According to information gathered by the Horse Association of America and transmitted to J. F. Kuehn of University Farm, secretary of the Minnesota Horse Breeders Association, more draft horses are now being sold for city use than for many years past. Increased production of good horses is held to be a great need at present. Wayne Dinsmore, an authority well known in horse circles, says: "You can safely assure the farmers of a better market for their surplus animals."

SELECT SEED NOW
FOR POTATO PLOT

Every commercial potato grower should get into the habit of growing a seed plot every year. Now is the time to select the seed for this plot. If the seed potatoes are to be taken out of the general field, only uniform tubers from good yielding hills should be selected by hand before the general digging starts. The seed plot tubers so selected should be put away in barrels or crates and stored in a cool, well ventilated place so that the potatoes will be in the best possible condition next spring. Enough potatoes should be selected to grow a plot large enough to supply all of the necessary seed potatoes for both the plot and the field the following year.

Every grower who has had a seed plot properly taken care of will follow this procedure and will then dig the remainder of his plot to be used as seed stock for the general field.

A yearly potato seed plot furnishes an easy and efficient method of obtaining good seed stock, keeping it free from such diseases as black leg, Fusarium wilt and Rhizoctonia, and increasing the yield and quality of the general crop.—A. G. Tolaas, chief inspector of the Minnesota potato seed certification board.

COST OF FIRELESS
COOKER ONLY \$2.00

Mrs. A. A. Wilson of Janesville, Minnesota, has tried out the fireless cooker and likes it. "I cook oatmeal in it often," she writes. "I heat the stone about 25 minutes and then place the oatmeal and the stone in the cooker. The oatmeal is perfectly cooked in the morning. I baked beans and fried chicken. I placed these in the cooker about 8 a.m. and they were thoroughly cooked for dinner."

Home convenience classes, conducted by the women's department of the Waseca County Farm Bureau, have been considering the home-made fireless cooker and the uses to which it can be put.

According to Adele Koch, of University Farm, assistant state leader of home demonstration agents, the makings of this cooker are a large pail, preferably a 100-pound lard pail, and a well for the cooking utensils. The well should be about six inches smaller in diameter than the outer container or lard pail. Sheet asbestos should be fastened around the well and the bottom. The space between the well and the pail should be packed solidly with crumpled paper, sawdust, excelsior, ground cork or steel wool and there should be at least three inches of packing under the bottom of the well. A tin lid to cover the well, a soap stone to place in it as a heater, a stuffed pillow to fit over it, and your fireless cooker is finished at a cost of less than \$2.00.

YIELDS INCREASED
BY GOOD ROTATION

Oats in a four-year crop rotation at University Farm yielded 23.5 per cent more than the same crop grown continuously, and oats and corn, alternated, yielded 25.9 per cent more than the same crops grown on the same land year after year.

Corn grown in rotation at the station yielded approximately 25 per cent higher than corn grown continuously. "At this rate," says A. C. Army, head of the section of farm crops at the station, "approximately one-fourth of a farm could be cropped to clover hay and still secure the same number of bushels of oats or of corn as if the entire acreage were planted to those cereals. The beneficial effect of the cultivated crop on the oat crop following was very marked."

CATTLE THRIVE ON
GOOD GRASS SILAGE

Grass for silage is recommended under certain conditions by M. J. Thompson, superintendent of the Northeast Experiment Station at Duluth, who finds there is promise this fall of a goodly second crop in northern Minnesota of clover growing alone and of clover mixed with timothy. If the weather remains dry this can, of course, be saved for hay, but if rainy weather is prevalent and a silo is available the better plan, he says, is to make silage of this product. It will keep better, he has found, if it can be put beneath the corn or sunflower silage, as this will compact it, something its own light weight will not well do. If placed alone or on top of other silage it should be soaked thoroughly at the time of filling and after. Clover and timothy silage, Mr. Thompson adds, was fed for two months at the station the past season with excellent results both as to feeding quality and milk production.

TIME TO CLEAN
HOUSE FOR FLOCKS

The condition of their winter quarters is a potent factor upon the productivity of poultry flocks. Only healthy, contented hens produce eggs in paying numbers. While on range most hens both lay and pay, because conditions are such that they are perfectly healthy. Sanitation then takes care of itself and constant exercise, coupled with natural selection of food having widely differing properties, gives ideal conditions for high production. Because conditions differ widely in these particulars during the seasons when fowls are confined, results are not as satisfactory.

"To counteract unsatisfactory results," says A. C. Smith, poultry husbandry leader at University Farm, "proper sanitary measures must be practiced. Begin by putting the young flock in a clean house this fall. Clean and disinfect the house thoroughly. Remove and burn all floor and nest litter. Remove all fittings, such as nest, roost, roosting platforms, and water stands; clean and paint with a good liquid disinfectant. Kerosene to which has been added a little strong, crude carbolic acid serves the purpose, as does several commercial disinfectants.

"Brush down the walls and ceiling, remove as much of the old earth as seems necessary, paint the walls with the same disinfectant as the fittings and put in fine or sandy loam to the depth of four to six inches. Replace the fittings, and let the house air well for a week or more before putting in the young stock."

BUTTERFAT FLOW
RUNS INTO MILLIONS

The Minnesota dairy cow keeps on paying the freight. Two hundred one co-operative creameries in different parts of the state paid an average price of 63.3 cents a pound for butterfat brought in by dairymen during the month of June. The average pounds of butterfat received per creamery for the 30 days was 19,727, or a total of 3,965,127 pounds.

Only the 2001 of the 640 co-operative creameries in the state reported to A. J. McGuire, of the agricultural extension division, University Farm. Mr. McGuire is calling on buttermaking co-operators to work together "in a big way." They must make a more uniform grade of butter, he says, build up the weaker creameries, go out for more adequate laws promoting the manufacture of only good butter, and, last but not least, they should develop the most efficient and profitable system of marketing.

Co-operative creamery men are reminded by Mr. McGuire that they can help to start this work by making monthly reports to him.

TEST SEPARATORS
AND MAKE SAVING

Defects in the separator will in the course of time make heavy inroads on the dairyman's receipts from butterfat. For instance, the testing of skimmilk to ascertain how the separator is working is not regarded important by some dairymen. But in the case of one herd of 35 cows in Minnesota, which produced 1,200 pounds of butterfat last June, the skimmilk was tested and found to be carrying off 364 pounds of real butterfat every 30 days. This is vouched for by L. V. Wilson, agent in dairying for the United States Department of Agriculture with headquarters at University Farm. "This farmer," says Mr. Wilson, "purchased a new separator the next day after the skimmilk was tested. This incident ought to be a sufficient lesson for prompting many others to determine the accuracy of their separators."

FARMERS' REWARD
MUST BE ADEQUATE

Every fair minded man will agree with E. T. Meredith, secretary of agriculture in President Wilson's cabinet, who holds that the farmers should receive adequate prices for all products raised the current year. This is the declaration of the secretary: "The cost per unit of producing these crops unquestionably was considerably greater than for any previous crop in the last half century, and business men, as well as all other elements of population, must realize that, if the record made by the farmers during the war and the period of readjustment is to be maintained and the food requirements of the nation met, producers must receive adequate prices for their products—prices which will enable them to continue to produce, to secure a reasonable return for their efforts, and to maintain a satisfactory standard of living for themselves and for their families."

SUMMER FATTENING
OFFERS OPPORTUNITY

More summer feeding of young cattle for market is suggested by W. H. Peters of the animal husbandry division, Minnesota College of Agriculture, who has been watching market quotations on grain fed cattle and finds that they are higher now than at any time yet this year. Market reports for the last ten years also show, he says, that invariably good grain fed cattle, especially yearlings, have sold for high prices through August, September and October of each year. He believes there is a suggestion in this circumstance that should be used to advantage by Minnesota farmers.

Professor Peters does not overlook the objections raised to the fattening of cattle on grain through the summer months. There is, of course, the difficulty of securing suitable feeder cattle in the spring. Ordinarily cattle on feed do not make good gains through the hot weather and fly season; also, all available labor on the farm is needed for farm crops work through the summer season. But he believes it is possible to overcome these objections, and as against them there is the great advantage of a high price for the finished product through the late summer and early fall months.

"Summer feeding," he says, "should perhaps be confined to yearlings or baby heaves, as it is the handy weight fat beefy carcass from the 1,000- to 1,200-pound steer that is in greatest demand through the summer and early fall. By starting in with a group of good beefy calves in the fall when they are weaned and carrying them through the winter on alfalfa or clover hay and silage with a medium grain ration, not getting them on full feed until in April or May and then pushing them until sold in August or September, the feeding of such cattle can be accomplished economically. Many feeders of baby beef cattle would be money ahead had they carried cattle that were sold last May and June until now."

"By giving yearling cattle the run of a darkened, well bedded shed during the daytime in summer, so as to protect them from the flies, and turning them out to a good grass pasture at night, at the same time keeping them on a full feed of grain, they will make almost as good gains as in winter. The labor of caring for them is also somewhat less and the usual higher price received for grain fed cattle in late summer and early fall will more than make up the difference in the higher cost of labor and slower gains made."

FIRST CROWING BIRD
THE BEST TO KEEP

Early feathering and early crowing mean early maturity. Early maturity means early profits. Always select the cockerels that feather first and then select from them the one that crows first, is the advice of Miss Annabell Campbell, University Farm, poultry specialist in the office of extension work with women.

Quick maturity—the ability of the pullet to lay at an early age and thus get out of the debtor class—is to a great extent hereditary.

Miss Campbell has a photograph of a Barred Plymouth Rock pullet that was hatched March 1 and laid an egg on July 7. Back of her, says Miss Campbell, is a long line of ancestry selected and preserved for quick maturing characteristics.

POULTRY RAISING
BUSINESS GAINING

Increasing development in Minnesota of the business of growing standard bred poultry is shown in the figures of state aid paid each year to county poultry associations as premiums on exhibits at county fairs and other contests.

N. E. Chapman, of University Farm, poultryman with the extension division of the college of agriculture, says that in 1916 the sums so paid to the counties by the state amounted to \$6,888; in 1917 more associations had been organized and the amount paid to them was \$7,991.43; in 1918 it was \$11,756.96, and in 1919 it was \$18,549.90. This shows a constant and steady growth in the business of poultry raising on Minnesota farms.

The sum of \$23,116.56 is available for 1920 out of the state's appropriation and the amount carried over. Poultry associations in 75 counties received state aid with which to pay premiums last year. The maximum amount allowed a county is \$400.