

UNIVERSITY FARM PRESS NEWS

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

VOL. XI

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., OCTOBER 1, 1920

NO. 19

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

Who Gets the Poultry Money?

It is said the work of women is responsible for about four-fifths of the poultry produced in the country. Some noisy individual arises right here to ask whether the women are getting four-fifths of all the money realized from poultry and eggs.

Canton Gazette Suspends

Discouraged by the trend toward higher prices in almost everything apparently that concerns newspaper making, E. C. Wallner has suspended publication of the Canton Gazette and will quit newspaper work permanently. He will move his newspaper plant to a larger field and convert it into a job printing office.

Printing More Farm News

Minnesota country papers are showing more and more a tendency to print the real news about and from the farms. Some of them have farmer reporters and others have office staff men whose business it is to gather up the farming news. A. C. Clayton, a farmer reporter for the Kossuth county, Iowa, Advance is quoted in the Country Gentleman as saying: "Anything that one farmer is doing or is going to do that another farmer would like to hear about is news."

Will Buy Paper Co-operatively

Secretary G. L. Caswell of the Iowa Press Association reports that the required 100 members have signed an agreement for co-operative buying of print paper. "We will be duly organized in a short time," says Mr. Caswell, "and will then begin negotiations for a regular supply of paper and arrange for annual contracts with mills at the lowest possible rates." Any newspaper man who is a member of the Iowa Press Association may become a member of the new buying corporation. Stock in the sum of 10,000 has been subscribed and paid up.

Farm School Paper Improved

The West Central School News published quarterly by the West Central School of Agriculture at Morris, has been reorganized and placed upon a definite business basis. Students and alumni held a special meeting and authorized the publication of the News every three months, beginning September 1, and more often if financial conditions make it possible. The first number is well edited and is mechanically attractive. From its editorial columns it is learned that a questionnaire sent to boys who have been graduated from the school shows that more than 80 per cent of these graduates are now owners or partners in the management of their farming enterprises. Most of them are located in west central Minnesota.

It once was the practice of editors to anathematize the newspaper borrower. The mutations of time, however, are changing all this. A New York state country editor says, "We don't want anyone to miss reading The Record. Therefore, we say, if you can't subscribe and have one of your own, borrow your neighbor's." A wideawake newspaper publisher in Colorado says: "Subscribe for The Harvest. If you don't subscribe, borrow it." Also, "Read this paper and after that lend it to one of your friends."

It is of first importance to the editor that everyone in the community should read his paper, and it is not a matter of life or death with him whether the person subscribes for it, buys it at a news stand or borrows it. As for the big dailies, not long ago one in Chicago requested its readers to borrow the paper instead of buying it, inasmuch as the high cost and shortage of print stock made the sale of papers far from profitable.

Print Shop Notes

The New Prague Times has entered upon its thirty-second year. But the Hastings Gazette, Irving Todd, editor, is just twice as old, having begun its sixty-fourth year. Essler & Quane, editors and publishers of the St. Peter Herald, put out a splendid county fair edition of 36 pages. The Red Wing Daily Republican has added another column to the page and prints from six to eight pages daily. The new form is a decided improvement. Frank A. Day, editor of the Fairmount Daily Sentinel, believes the Farm Bureau is all to the good. He says: "The more we hear of this movement the more we are convinced that it is going to do great things in and for this nation."

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

October 1 to 8

Keep all weeds out of the strawberry patch. It will be easier to care for next year.

Plant tulips about four inches deep and mulch with straw or strawy manure when the ground begins to freeze.

There are perhaps 1,000 acres of fine cabbage growing around Plainview, Minnesota. This is also a good onion district.

Peonies should be planted now. Do not set them more than two inches deep, from top of cions. Mulch lightly with straw this winter.

Time to plant hardy bulbs for spring flowers. Hyacinth, daffodil and lily do well in the house. Tulips are the only ones satisfactory out of doors.

Dig gladiolus bulbs as soon as frost kills the foliage. They may be dug any time now, but it is well to let them grow as long as possible. Larger bulbs will reset.

One Minnesota gardener has been very successful in growing large Denia onions this year. He started the plants in a small greenhouse, transplanting them outdoors later.

The Minnesota Fruit Breeding Farm had a fine showing of its new plums at the State Fair. These are large and of fine quality, many of the size of western plums and of fine quality.

Why cut down all trees along the highways being graded? We recently saw two or three dozen large maples along a road taken out entirely. It would look much better and be as usable if the row had been thinned to 50 or even 75 feet. If the road were well made the trees would not injure it at all. Let's have some shade on our new roads.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

October 8 to 15

Blackcap raspberries and gooseberries are best propagated by layering.

Shade the southwest side of apple and other smooth bark trees to prevent sunscald.

Plant butternut and walnut seed as soon as it falls from the trees. If it dries there is seldom any chance of its growing.

Windbreaks have again proven their worth as a shelter from hot dry winds which dry up the garden and lawn. Every farm in the prairie section needs one.

The Beta grape has proved very satisfactory in many sections of the state this year.

Now is a fine time to determine how the home grounds may be made better. Prepare the ground for setting shrubs next spring and order them soon. If any assistance is needed in selecting plants the writer of these notes will gladly help.

Sumac makes a fine cover for rough banks along a lake or hillside. If mowed down each year it thickens and holds soil well.

Clean up the orchard and garden. Weeds, leaves or brush around the trees help to breed insects and diseases. Grass at the roots of apple trees makes a fine harbor for mice during the fall and winter.

The fine showing of plums made at the fair by the Fruit Breeding Farm ought to convince fruit growers that large plums of good quality can be grown in Minnesota. Some of these sorts ought to be on every Minnesota farm.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

LEGISLATION NEEDED AGAINST THISTLE

The invasion of the sow thistle of all parts of Minnesota is steadily progressing, according to C. G. Selvig, superintendent of the Northwest School of Agriculture and Experiment Station at Crookston. Mr. Selvig urges that special attention be given this matter at once in order to prepare a plan of control for legislative action. The easiest method is to prevent its getting a foothold in counties which are yet immune. Legislation for community action to eradicate the weed as distinct from individual action, is required for sections where the sow thistle already exists. There are several successful methods of eradication. The great problem, according to Mr. Selvig, is to have all interests concerned follow one of these plans. The fact that the sow thistle is a perennial, that its seed is spread by the wind, and that it has extended its invasion already to central Minnesota, is evidence enough to justify a state-wide movement for its control and eradication.

MINNESOTA SEED BEST, SAYS IOWAN

Minnesota seed potatoes score again. C. L. Fitch, potato expert of the agricultural extension department at Iowa State College at Ames, says that the Minnesota seed has this year shown itself worth 100 an acre more in net results than Iowa grown seed.

Mr. Fitch's statement is based, says Better Iowa, the clipping sheet issued at Ames, on demonstrations carried on in seven different Iowa counties to bring out the value of vigorous northern seed potatoes. Four trial lots have just been dug near Sigourney in Keokuk county with these results: Certified Cobblers, grown in northern Minnesota, yielded 126 bushels an acre with only 11 bushels of throwouts. The Iowa grown Cobblers planted alongside yielded 65 bushels with 22 bushels of small and inferior potatoes. "In other words," says Mr. Fitch, "the northern seed produced 115 bushels of good table potatoes and the Iowa seed only 43 bushels, a difference of 73 bushels, worth at least \$100.

Better Iowa also declares that in Early Ohio the certified Red River Valley seed produced 105 bushels with 20 bushels small, or 85 bushels net. The Iowa Early Ohio seed produced 60 bushels with 20 bushels of throwouts, or 40 bushels net. The table stock from the Minnesota grown was larger and more uniform than that from the Iowa seed.

As Keokuk county has more than 1,000 acres of potatoes this year, Mr. Fitch figures it out that good Minnesota seed would have been worth at least \$50,000 to that county alone.

FIELD MICE LURED BY POISONED GRAIN

Poisoned grain, which can be purchased already prepared or which can be made by the farmer or orchardist, can be used to advantage, says F. L. Washburn of the Minnesota College of Agriculture, in controlling field mice. One ounce of sulphate of strychnine should be dissolved in one quart of boiling water. Add an equal quantity of any sugar sirup and a little oil of anise to make it still more attractive. This quantity of poison is sufficient to treat one-half bushel of wheat or corn which should be soaked in the liquid for about 24 hours and distributed in localities where mice abound in large numbers.

The poison can be kept from animals and birds by placing it under pieces of board or in tiles or old tin cans. It should be used in the fall as well as in the spring as a means of destroying the mice. It will not afford permanent exemption from attacks of the pests, for mice from nearby localities may later work in the treated area, but it will aid materially in keeping them under control.

An application of thick whitewash, Mr. Washburn says, is very effective against mice in nurseries. Bluestone solution should be added until the whitewash is quite blue, the mixture being applied liberally with a brush, late in the fall, close to the ground and up the trunks some distance. The treatment should be repeated if possible on some warm day in winter. A spray pump with a nozzle adapted for whitewash could be used in place of a brush.

LITTLE EXTRA FEED MAKES BIG RETURN

Further evidence that it is the well fed cow that makes the profit could be furnished, if necessary, by Elwin D. Myers, tester for the Sherburne County Cow Testing association of Elk River, Minnesota. In his report for August to L. V. Wilson of University Farm, U. S. dairy representative, Mr. Myers says that as production had been very low, owing to the drying up of pastures, seven farmers out of 31 supplemented pasture grazing with additional feed. Mr. Myers vouches for the fact that the herds of the seven showed an average gain for the month per cow in butterfat of 5 per cent, while the cows of the other 24 herds which were not given any extra feed showed a decrease of 20 per cent. In most cases, says Mr. Myers, the additional feed was small, two only of the seven farmers actually feeding grain, the other five feeding green fodder or running the cows on hay meadow. He feels positive that the seven herds would have shown a decrease similar to that of the 24 had they not been fed a little extra ration. "On an average," he says, "the farmers who fed grain more than doubled their money in August on the additional feed that was used, besides putting their stock in better shape for late fall and winter months."

MILK COW NEEDS PLENTY OF FEED

Grain feeding should always be in proportion to milk production. The cow in milk, if a Holstein, says C. H. Eckles, chief of the dairy division of the Minnesota College of Agriculture, should be given about one pound of grain to every four pounds of milk produced. A Guernsey or Jersey needs one pound of feed to three of milk. The dry cow in good condition needs little, if any, grain.

"The cow is a milk machine," says Dr. Eckles, "and feed is the raw material. Like any factory or machine, economical operation is possible only when plenty of raw material is available. Turning a dairy cow loose in a pasture does not insure that she will get sufficient feed to hold up in milk production as she should, especially from now until the time when regular housing and dry feed will be in order. "Practically every real dairy farmer will have silage available. Don't wait too long before beginning to use it. Within ten days after silo filling is completed, the silage is ready to use and unless pastures are unusually good it is well to begin feeding it.

"The experienced man knows that it is easy to let cows drop down in milk from poor feed, but very hard to bring them back to the high level again later even if good feed is given. Good management means keeping the conditions and feed right all the time so there will be no drop in milk at any time from lack of feed. The cow that has what silage she will eat will be well cared for so far as roughage is concerned so long as the pasture furnishes fair grass. When the grass begins to fail, bring out the alfalfa and clover."

HOW TO PROTECT TREES FROM MICE

Field mice often work damage in Minnesota orchards and in plots devoted to valuable forage crops. For years they have not been so destructive as they were last winter. In the light of that experience proper measures should be taken this fall to protect trees and fields from injury.

"In the case of young orchard trees," says F. L. Washburn of the division of economic zoology, University Farm, "protection is found in the shape of wood veneer which can be bought in box factories and other sources of supply. Each sheet of veneer is about 20 by 24 inches and when wet can be wrapped around a tree and securely fastened with string or wire. Care should be taken to insert the veneer two inches in the ground. These protectors will last two or three years, and will not only hold the tree girdling mice at bay but the rabbits as well unless drifting snow makes it possible for the rabbits to get above them.

"Another method of protection is by the use of wire mosquito netting. The wire has an added virtue of extending up the trunk of the tree further than the 20 inch wood protector."

OFFICIAL TESTING PUTS \$\$ IN PURSE

Official or advanced registry testing of dairy cows usually pays good dividends. Hundreds of cases to prove the statement might be cited by dairy men of the Minnesota college of agriculture at University Farm. As an example of what official test papers are sometimes worth, there is the case of three Nebraska cows, having good production records, which were sold not long ago at a St. Paul sale for more than \$2,000 each. Experts said that they might have sold around \$500 each without official production records. Often the extra price received on a cow of advanced registry will pay the cost of testing for several years.

CULLING DOES NOT REDUCE EGG YIELD

A culling demonstration held in the forenoon on the farm of George Bornhoft near Tyler, Lincoln county, brought quick results. The demonstration was given by representatives of the Farm Bureau and the agricultural extension division of the Minnesota College of Agriculture. In the afternoon Mr. Bornhoft began to put into practice what he had learned and took to town and marketed 197 pounds of culls at 22 cents a pound. The sequel is now told by Mrs. Bornhoft, who says that she received the money for the semi-occasional layers which were sold and that the day following the demonstration she gathered the usual number of eggs from the farm flock. About 350 Rhode Island Red pullets, all willing to pay their board, are now left on this farm.

DAIRYMEN IN BIG DEMAND; "U" FARM OFFERS 5 COURSES

Never before in the history of dairying in the northwest has there been a greater demand than now for men who understand the theory and practice of manufacturing dairy products. Here in Minnesota the university's dairy short courses have assisted in the training of nearly 2,500 young men. J. R. Keithley, who is in charge of the courses, says it is impossible to supply the demand for skilled dairy workers, such as butter, cheese and ice cream makers, as reflected by inquiries almost daily at University Farm. These conditions, it is felt, point to an increased attendance on the courses to be given at University Farm, St. Paul, this fall and winter.

An able and enthusiastic instructional force has been provided for the courses. Professor Keithley will be assisted by L. S. Palmer, dairy chemist; Harold Macy, dairy bacteriologist; William Boss, creamery engineering; J. G. Dent, creamery repairs; and P. L. Miller, creamery accounting. All are members of the faculty of the Minnesota College of Agriculture. In addition, R. M. Washburn will direct the instruction and work in ice cream making; Alex Johnson, manager of the farmers' cooperative plant at Lafayette, Minnesota, and S. G. Gustafson, an inspector in the office of the state dairy and food commissioner, will have charge of the work in creamery management; J. B. Baumgartner, cheese inspector from the office of the state commissioner, will instruct in cheese making, and James Rasmussen, manager of the Albert Lea State creamery, will instruct in refrigeration and starters. Special lecturers will be delivered by dairy experts.

Five courses will be given, as follows: Creamery operators (for beginners), Jan. 3 to Feb. 12; advanced creamery operators, Nov. 15 to 27; ice cream plant operators, Nov. 29 to Dec. 4; cheese plant operators, Nov. 15 to Dec. 11; milk plant operators, Dec. 6 to 11. Full particulars will be furnished on application to the division of dairy husbandry or the office of publications at University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

NEW DRAINAGE LAW HELD STATE BOON

The passage of the Cliff act, which is designed to give relief to the people in regions affected by flood waters due to insufficient outlets, is believed by C. G. Selvig, superintendent of the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston, to mark an epoch in the development of Minnesota. E. V. Willard, state drainage commissioner, voices the opinion that great results will be attained under the drainage district plan which is provided for in the act.

Mr. Selvig, who was at University Farm, recently, said that events of transcending importance to the northwestern part of the state are taking place with reference to flood control and drainage. Three drainage and conservancy districts, embracing the Big Stone, Red Lake and Roseau river projects, have been organized under the provisions of the new law.

Members of the Red Lake board, of which Superintendent Selvig is president, recently completed a trip of inspection over the territory drained by the Thief, Clearwater and Red Lake rivers, which are included in the district. The problem of securing adequate outlets, says the superintendent, is the principal one confronting each of these drainage divisions.

BEST TIME TO SELL, BUY STOCK

Representatives of the department of agriculture, University of Minnesota, are often requested to forecast the prices which are likely to prevail for different kinds of farm produce. When answer is made in such cases it is generally to refer to the law of price averages as reported for a definite series of years in leading markets of the country. The future can only be judged by the past. In the matter of selling beef cattle and buying feeders, farm management authorities of the agricultural department have found from a comparison of monthly prices on the Chicago markets for the 15 years from 1904 to 1918 inclusive, that the highest prices for fat steers usually prevail from May until September and the lowest prices for feeders in November, December, and January. Therefore, to the man who makes a practice of fattening cattle for the market, the university men, adhering to the law of averages, recommend that feeders be bought in December, January or early February and be made ready for the May, June or July market. "This would seem to be a particularly desirable policy," they say, "when silage forms a large part of the roughage, as the silage does not deteriorate, while shock corn deteriorates rapidly in the late winter and early spring."