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EDITOR'S COLUMN

Farm Bureau to Lead Way. Frank A. Day, editor of the Fairmount Daily Sentinel, is a believer in the mission and motive of the Farm Bureau. Here is what he said in a recent editorial letter:

Junior Club Work Praised. The editor of the Shakopee Tribune is impressed with the extent of the worth-while work that is being done by leaders of boys' and girls' club work in this state.

Growing Corn as Staple. King Corn is preempting more territory in Minnesota. The Roseau Times-Region says that corn is becoming a staple crop in that far northern county.

PRINT SHOP NOTES. E. W. Nobbs, editor of that nobby paper, The Bellingham Times, prints a column or more of farm news and comment each week under an attractive two column box head featuring the words, "Farm Department."

Moyle Edwards and Thomas H. Moodie are jogging in double harness, having bought and consolidated the Gazette and Telegram of Breckenridge.

"The Community Booster" is a distinct feature of the Houston Signal. In this publication within a publication, the editors print timely farming hints and the agricultural news of the community.

The Willmar Republican-Gazette is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. It has issued a souvenir magazine in which are reproduced facsimile copies of many early-day pages of the paper, one such dating back to 1876.

The Stock and Dairy Farmer of Duluth is to be congratulated upon securing the services of George P. Grout as its editor. Mr. Grout has had exceptional training and experience in livestock pursuits.

Under the improved system evolved by the owners of the mill, who are working in cooperation with the chemists of University Farm, the by-products of the sorghum cane are becoming more and more a factor in the industry.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

October 15 to 22

Prickly ash berries picked when ripe and placed in clothing boxes give off a pleasant odor. Plant hyacinths, daffodils and narcissi in the house now for next spring's flowers.

Cattails, rushes, cornfodder, lath or brush placed on the southwest side of a tree protect it from sunscald. Remove all weeds and grass from about trees now. Mice find a nest in the material and eat the green bark of trees and shrubs.

Large sunflowers not only add a touch of color to the garden, but furnish good poultry feed for winter. Throw dirt up over freshly budded young trees. Just nicely cover the bud. This will keep it from freezing dry during the winter.

Grapes and raspberries are best protected over winter by covering with dirt. Lay the plants as near the ground as possible. Put the dirt on just before the ground freezes.

Gladioli, dahlias, cosmos and other tender bulbs should be lifted before the ground freezes and stored in the house basement where they will not freeze.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

October 22 to 29

Do not try to store squash in a moist cellar. A dry, warm place near the furnace or in a warm attic is best. Cover carrots, beets and other root crops with dry sand or soil to prevent their wilting during the winter.

Much better quality of dill and sage may be had from the garden than can be bought. Start an herb garden next spring of the sorts you use. A pot of parsley set in a sunny window not only adds cheer to the room, but is useful for garnishing and flavoring during the winter.

Spring is the best time to plant all sorts of plants except peonies, iris and rhubarb. Prepare the ground this fall and plant as early as possible in the spring.

Gladioli require less work than dahlias, are easier kept over winter, and in the long run are more satisfactory. Plant a goodly number of them next year.

Do not let roses or perennials get wet before they are covered. They must go into the winter with dry foliage if they are to come through in good shape. See that the soil at their roots is moist. Otherwise they may freeze dry.

WOMEN PLAN FOR HOME CONVENIENCES

Farm Bureau women of Waseca county have been cooperating with representatives from the office of extension work with women at University Farm in putting on a home convenience project in Waseca county. Five communities were organized with the object of enlisting the interest of the women in organized work connected with the Farm Bureau and to have each woman who attended regularly make some change for the better in her methods of work or add some new piece of needed equipment.

As a direct result of the efforts centering about this project, equipment has been added in 30 cases, including many things from paring knives, jar lifters and fireless cookers to iceless refrigerators, ladder stools, built-in woodboxes, water systems, furnaces, screen porches and two power washing machines. One wash room and one bath room were equipped. Nine women said they had made changes in methods of work so as to save many steps, and one woman testified to a re-arranged kitchen.

The Farm Bureau women were asked to outline plans for improvements the next six months. Responding, they mentioned 36 proposed additions, which included water systems, furnaces, electric washing machines, wire dish drainers, fireless cookers, iceless refrigerators, drop leaf shelves and re-arranged kitchens and pantries.

WHY THE HURRY TO GET OUT OF SHEEP

"There is no money in sheep with wool at 20 cents a pound, so I sold my ewes at \$6 a head."

This was the statement of a Minnesota farmer who was so enthusiastic about sheep when wool was around 55 cents a pound that he purchased additional ewes at a price around \$15 a head.

"This farmer was certainly correct," says William L. Cavert, University Farm extensionist, "when he said there was no money in sheep with wool at 20 cents, provided the market for lambs is not high enough to offset the low price of wool. However, I believe that when one can buy good ewes at \$6 a head, it is a good time to stay in the sheep business. If one has knowledge of sheep and has the necessary feed and fences he should certainly buy a few of the ewes that the neighbors wish to sell at around half of the previous prices or less. At any rate, it is certainly a much better time to stay in the sheep business or to get into it, than when prices of ewes and wool are abnormally high. The sheep and wool market cannot go much lower and if sheep growers get discouraged it will not be many years before it is much better. Then those who now wish to sell their breeding stock will want it back."

CULLING CAMPAIGN IN GREAT FAVOR

The Farm Bureau poultry culling campaign, put on in cooperation with agricultural extensionists of the state university, is everywhere getting results. N. E. Chapman, poultry extensionist from University Farm, is giving several culling demonstrations almost every day before good sized crowds. Everywhere his work is strongly endorsed by the press. The Herald-Dispatch of Sleepy Eye, Brown county, reflects the general good opinion in which the University Farm poultry extension work is held. It says: "The chicken industry is the best developed of any industry in this country, and it is second only to corn as a money maker. The high stage of its development is in a large measure due to the advise and instruction given by Mr. Chapman to the fanciers of the county." County Agent F. M. Bane is also complimented by the Herald-Dispatch.

Five points emphasized by the poultry leaders of the university are: 1, progress of the molt; 2, fading of the color; 3, body conformation; 4, head points or sex characteristics; 5, condition of bird as to flesh and feathers.

HOMEMAKER'S WORK WILL BE LIGHTENED

To shorten the working day of the average farm woman; to lessen the load of manual labor she now carries; to bring about higher standards of comfort and beauty for the farm home; to safeguard the health of the farm family, and to develop and introduce money-yielding home industries where necessary in order to make needed home improvements—these are the motives animating the work of the co-operative extension service as conducted by the federal department of agriculture, the state agricultural colleges and the farm bureaus. "With the co-operation of the people," says Julia O. Newton, Minnesota state home demonstration leader, "these changes can be brought about by introducing improved home equipment, by helping farm people to understand and apply the laws of nutrition and hygiene, and by cultivating the idea that investment in the comfort, beauty, health and efficiency of the farm home and community is a wise and legitimate expenditure. That the work and cause are gaining is shown by the increased moral and financial support of local communities extended last year to the nearly 300 agents now employed over the country."

PIGS FEED SELVES, CUT HUSKING BILL

Here is another bit of evidence received at University Farm that "hogging down" corn is good business for many growers of hogs and corn in this region. The North Dakota Agricultural College obtained a return of \$45.54 an acre by using 48 shoats to hog down 16 acres of flint corn in 1918, according to J. H. Shepperd of the experiment station. The hogs were turned into the field September 6, when they averaged 109 pounds in weight, and left there until November 12. They made an average gain of 94 pounds, or a gain of 281.75 pounds per acre. They were marketed at 16.31 cents, which, allowing for shrinkage, gave a return of \$45.54 per acre. These results are in line with those obtained by the Minnesota experiment stations.

LOSS ON POTATOES CAN BE MINIMIZED

Careless handling of potatoes during and after digging, says A. G. Tolaas, chief inspector for the state seed potato certification board, is often responsible for serious loss from rots. Every bruise or infection on a potato makes it easy for various storage rots to develop. These diseases have their origin in the soil or in unclean bins. It is important, therefore, that great care be taken while digging and also while handling the potatoes after placing them in storage.

Potatoes badly bruised when dug should not be placed in storage with sound potatoes, since they are certain to rot and spread infection throughout the bins. A field that has contained blackleg, and which has not been rogued, is very likely to yield a considerable number of potatoes slightly infected at least with blackleg rot. If these are placed in storage with sound tubers they may be responsible for large amounts of storage rot, especially if the potatoes are damaged when being dug or after being placed in storage.

Mr. Tolaas finds that a large amount of storage rots can be prevented by placing the potatoes as soon as dug in crates which, when filled, can be hauled to the storage cellar and carefully dumped wherever wanted. If it is necessary to drop the potatoes several feet much damage can be avoided by providing a chute for lowering them into the cellar.

Storage cellars, especially those which contained a lot of rotted potatoes the previous year, should be thoroughly disinfected with a strong solution of bluestone—one pound being dissolved in 10 gallons of water; or formaldehyde, one pint in 10 gallons of water, before the potatoes are put away. Good ventilation with temperature of from 35 to 40 degrees F. will aid materially in keeping down the loss from storage rots.

HOW ABOUT YOUR FIRE INSURANCE

Have you increased your fire insurance policies so that the amount of your insurance is somewhat in line with the increased cost of new buildings and new equipment?

This pertinent question at this time is asked by William L. Cavert, farm management specialist with the agricultural extension division at University Farm.

"I would suggest," says Mr. Cavert, "that those who have not increased their insurance since the era of high prices for building material telephone or write at once to the secretary of the mutual company asking for sufficient increased insurance to partly offset at least the increased cost of buildings and farm equipments."

"Adequate insurance is especially important in the case of tenant farmers and of owners whose land is heavily mortgaged, for in such instances a destructive fire loss without adequate insurance might put the farmer in a position where he would have to give up farming and go to work as a hired man."

FLOCKS NEED NEW BREEDING STOCK

N. E. Chapman, poultry extensionist with the Minnesota College of Agriculture, says this is the time to secure standard poultry breeding stock for 1921. New blood is needed by Minnesota flocks to keep up vitality, productiveness and general efficiency. The best flocks will deteriorate under a system of continued inbreeding.

The Rocks and Reds, Leghorns, and Wyandottes are breeds, says Mr. Chapman, that are making good on Minnesota farms. He recommends the Mammoth Bronze, White Holland and Bourbon Reds for turkeys; the Toulouse, White Embden and Grey African for geese, and the White Pekin, Rouen, and Indian Runner for ducks. "Buy new stock now," says Mr. Chapman, "while you can have choice. It is necessary to have as good stock for poultry as it is to have good seed corn."

DO YOUR TIMOTHY SEED BUYING EARLY

According to estimates issued by the bureau of markets of the United States department of agriculture, the timothy seed crop this year is only about 80 per cent of last year's production. The hold-over from last year is thought to be below normal. It is, of course, too late to get any relief from the shortage by saving more timothy for seed. Andrew Boss, chief of the division of farm crops and management, University Farm, says it would be well, therefore, for those who will need timothy next spring to look up good stocks and make their purchases at an early date.

GOOD PROFIT MADE IN GROWING CANE

J. J. Willaman, assistant professor of agricultural biochemistry at University Farm, reports further progress this year in the matter of developing the sorghum cane industry on Minnesota farms. A splendid object lesson is afforded by the Waconia sorghum mills to which neighborhood farmers have delivered as high as 300 tons of sorghum cane within a day and which is grinding 100 tons of cane daily.

The outstanding fact presented by Mr. Willaman is that the sorghum cane industry, under conditions prevailing around Waconia, is a profitable crop for those who cultivate it. From 12 to 15 tons of cane selling at from \$7 to \$8 a ton are produced from an acre, or around \$100 gross. The cost of growing, harvesting and hauling to the mill does not exceed \$40 to the acre.

Cultivation of the cane follows closely the rules for the cultivation of corn. The cane is harvested by a corn binder and the bundles are hauled directly to the mill where a high class sirup, Mr. Willaman says, is produced.

Under the improved system evolved by the owners of the mill, who are working in cooperation with the chemists of University Farm, the by-products of the sorghum cane are becoming more and more a factor in the industry. Plots for the propagation of high class seed are being maintained for the purpose of developing a seed that will make for earlier maturity of the plant, for a higher yield of sugar and for greater purity of juice.

The seeds, leaves and bagasse, or spent cane, are put to practical use and furnish valuable by-products. Much of the seed, after being thoroughly dried, is resold for planting purposes and the rest of it for livestock and poultry feed, its value for this purpose having been found to be about 80 per cent of that of corn. The leaves and all the waste of the plant are used for fuel under the boilers of the mill.

GRAIN YIELDS AT CROOKSTON STATION

The rust epidemic of 1920 caused a decided decrease in yield of the Marquis, Blue Stem and Preston wheats at the Northwest School and Station, Crookston, according to R. R. Smith of the farm crops staff. The general average run of these varieties was about 12 to 15 bushels an acre as compared with 18 to 20 bushels by the Mindum, a durum variety. The Manchuria six row barley gave the highest average yield of the barley varieties with a general range of from 28 to 40 bushels an acre. On some of the well prepared five and seven year rotation plots a yield of 90 bushels of Minnesota No. 281 oats was secured with an average yield of from 58 to 65 bushels. Early varieties of oats, such as Minnesota No. 261, Iowa No. 103, Iowa No. 105, Iowan and the Kherson, gave average yields of 30 to 40 bushels an acre. The late varieties, such as Lincoln, American Banner, Gold Rain, Irish Victor, Swedish Select and its selections, returned averages of about 10 bushels higher.

STAGGERING LOSSES CAUSED BY RATS

Entomologists of the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota say that Minnesota's financial loss from the depredations of rats is from \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000 annually. State directors of agricultural extension work have estimated the losses in Montana at from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000; in North Dakota at \$6,000,000 or more; in Kansas \$12,000,000; in California \$20,000,000 and in Wyoming and Nevada at from 10 to 15 per cent of the value of all crops.

"In addition to this monumental loss of food products," says F. L. Washburn of the division of economic zoology, University Farm, "rats spread disease, and efforts are being made by our state and city boards of health to reduce the number of these dangerous and destructive animals."

"Every citizen of Minnesota should feel the responsibility of doing his or her part by making new buildings rat proof and by eliminating rubbish which harbors rats, as well as by an active campaign leading to their destruction both by trapping and poisoning."