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UNIVERSITY FARM PRESS NEWS

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EDITOR'S COLUMN

OUR AIM

To cause the people—all of the people—to know, to remember, and to do that which will promote the development of Minnesota's greatest industry, agriculture, and, therefore, the prosperity of all.—Adapted from an address by Jarvis A. Wood of N. W. Ayer & Son, Philadelphia.

Editors Co-operate in Buying

Members of the Iowa Press association have formed a paper buying organization which they call the Iowa Press Co-operative association. G. L. Caswell is manager, and paid-up stock is now held by more than 100 newspapers of the state, with assurance that the number will eventually reach 200. Negotiations for next year's print paper supply for members will soon be started, and Mr. Caswell predicts that a substantial saving in costs will be made. It is expected that at least $200,000 will be invested in paper stock for members of the association.

Linotype Operator Wanted

The Press News has a call for a competent linotype operator for a Model 8 machine. Must be capable of handling all forms of composition for newspaper ads, job printing, and some technical scientific composition. Should begin work on Friday, Dec. 17. The shop is non-union and one of the best equipped in the Northwest.

Dollars vs. Ideas

You have a dollar,
I have a dollar,
We swap.
Now you have my dollar,
And I have your dollar,
We have neither gained a whit.
But you have an idea,
And I have an idea,
We swap.
Now you have two ideas,
And I have two ideas.
That is the difference between
Dollars and ideas.

Farm Products and Advertising

In 1913 California raised 140,000,000 pounds of raisins. The larger part of these were not sold. In 1917, 326,000,000 pounds were raised and every one sold. Advertising was responsible. Any product of value rightly advertised can be sold. Farm and horticultural products need more systematic methods of advertising. People must be interested in vegetables, fruits and flowers if they are to buy. —Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

Grondahl Puts Out Sunday Edition

The Red Wing Daily Republican, edited by Jens K. Grondahl, poet, patriot and city and state builder, is putting out a Sunday edition that can stand comparison with the big city press. Frank A. Day, of Fairmont, who is gathering experience in running a small town daily, says Grondahl's enterprise seems likely to succeed because of the loyal support given by business men of Red Wing.

Print

We may live without credit or backing or style. We may win without energy, skill or a smile. Without patience or purpose or wit. We may even succeed if we're lacking in grit. But take it from me as a mighty safe hint—a civilized man cannot live without print.—The Inland Printer.

Give Your Paper Personality

Assuming that nearly every reader of a country weekly also takes a daily, The Service Sheet editor of Cornell advises the country editor to plan his paper so that in the news itself and in the more intensely local presentation of the news it will be as much unlike the daily as possible. In other words, the country editor should try to give his weekly a flavor and personality all its own.

Old Apprentice System Dying

A central New York publisher says the old apprentice system is a thing of the past. "One must size up a bright young man," says the publisher, "hire him at good wages to do next to nothing for several weeks and advance his wages regularly. Then by the time you get him worth while he's off for some city office where better wages prevail." More and more it becomes apparent that the country shops must train their own printers and pay them well while they are learning.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

December 15 to 22

Pruning may be done at odd times on warm days and in fact all through the winter.

Keep chrysanthemum stock cool and do not encourage growth in it till January or February. March is plenty early enough to take cuttings.

Cornstalks or hay wound around tender shrubs or smooth barked trees often saves them from winter injury.

Rhubarb dug last autumn may now be put in the cellar or basement in soil, watered and given heat. Good sauce material will quickly result.

A good windbreak is needed in the prairie sections of the state if garden or fruit crops are to be grown. It is also needed for comfort these cold windy days.

According to the last census there are about 4,500 nurseries in the United States representing an investment of more than $52,000,000.

Tramp the snow around apple tree trunks. Mice often find a shelter close to the tree and eat the bark. Get rid of all the rabbits possible by traps, guns or otherwise.

Well rotted manure makes a good mulch over the lawn or on shrub borders. It holds the snow and does not permit of so much freezing and thawing of the soil.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

December 22 to 29

Send for catalogs and make up the garden plan and garden list for next year.

Put out food for the birds. They especially need it on stormy cold days, when tree buds or fruits are hard to find.

Keep the foliage of house plants clean. Wash off dust and mealy bugs every week or so. Plants do best in a moist atmosphere free from dust.

Boxwood and other evergreen plants used on the lawn in summer may be stored over winter in a light, cold basement room. Give only enough water to prevent their drying out.

It is easy to grow enough vegetables on a half acre to furnish at least two vegetables a day for the table of an average family the year round. Try it next year.

The Juneberry, highbush cranberry, wild grape, buffalo berry and sandcherry are both ornamental and useful for fruit, especially in districts where standard fruits are hard to grow. Why not try some of them?

Make a study now of vegetables and fruits which will do well in your community and plan to use them next year. Know varieties and order them from responsible seedsmen.

Home grown Christmas trees are much in demand now. It does not take many years to grow a good spruce or some kinds of pine suitable for Christmas tree or decorative purposes and it is a satisfaction to have them on hand.

Lilies, poinsettias, cyclamen and ferns make acceptable Christmas presents. Cut flowers, such as roses or carnations, may also be used. A dozen gladiolus bulbs from one's own garden makes a year-round gift much appreciated by one who has a garden. —Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

MAKE NET WORTH STATEMENT JAN. 1

W. L. Cavert, farm management demonstrator with the agricultural extension division of the university, believes that a fine job for every farmer for a part of New Years day is to make a net worth statement. A Carver county farmer has such a net worth statement for every year from 1908 to 1920. His figures show that on January 1, 1908, he had a net worth of $5,000, while on January 1, 1920, he had a net worth of around $28,000.

"An annual net worth statement tells this farmer," says Mr. Cavert, "just how much he is getting ahead from year to year or over a period of years, but it does not show whether one has made progress through successful farming or by a very economical manner of living. The Carver county farmer also keeps a record of receipts and expenses and at the end of the year makes a summary that shows the returns for the year's work and interest earned on the investment."

A good outline for keeping such records is the Minnesota Farm Account Book which may be obtained from the Students' Book Store, University Farm, St. Paul, at 25 cents a copy, and also from many county banks. This book gives forms for farm inventory, a net worth statement, receipts and expenses and for summarizing the results so as to show the return for the farmer's work and interest earned on the investment.

BARBERRY HUNTED IN NINE COUNTIES

Black stem rust on wheat took heavy toll in Minnesota this year. Now that results of the 1920 barberry eradication campaign can be summarized, plant pathologists of the Minnesota College of Agriculture are not surprised at the extent of the loss.

Since the first of the year, says L. W. Melander, in charge of barberry eradication work in the state, 8,943 bushes of barberry have been found on 245 properties in Minnesota. The distribution of the plantings discovered this year was sufficiently strategic, Mr. Melander finds, to cause all wheat fields in the region under survey to become infested with black stem rust. He concludes that if plantings of barberry are as well distributed in the counties yet to be surveyed as in those which have been surveyed, and he is inclined to believe they are, there is no question as to the origin of the severe rust epidemic in Minnesota this year.

Nine counties, all in southeastern Minnesota, were given a complete barberry survey in 1920. Every farm in the nine counties was checked. Field scouts, nine in number when the season was at its height, were under the direction of Mr. Melander with headquarters at University Farm.

EVENING BANQUETS FOR FARMERS' AND HOME-MAKERS' WEEK, JAN. 3-8

Two evening banquets, one for farmers and their wives, the other for home-makers only, are being arranged as added features of Farmers' and Home-makers' week at University Farm January 3 to 8.

The first will be held Wednesday evening, January 5, in the big dining hall at the farm. Lotus D. Coffman, president of the university, will be the principal speaker. S. L. Strivings, vice president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, is coming to University Farm during the week, and present indications are that he will speak at the banquet. Men and women representing the university and the agricultural interests of the state will also have places on the program. Suitable musical numbers will be provided for the after-dinner "feast of reason and flow of soul." Tickets for the banquet will be on sale at University Farm.

The dinner for the home-makers will be served Thursday evening, January 6, in the Home Economics building. It will be followed by a program of addresses and music. A University Farm faculty committee is at work on the two programs.

SHEEP PAY OUT IN BRUSHING LAND

Sheep have lost some standing and caste because of the slump in prices of wool. But they are still good land clearers, and M. J. Thompson, superintendent of the Northeast Experiment station at Duluth, believes there should be a place, in spite of present wool prices, for small flocks on undeveloped farms.

"Brushing burned over station land in the summer of 1920," says Mr. Thompson, "required nearly 50 hours man labor, which cost at the lowest figure more than $15 an acre. Several tracts were brushed and the average taken. On two other tracts sheep and lambs were pastured. The entire flock was rotated between two pastures in order to keep the brush down in both, prepare the land for clover and keep the sheep in good growing condition.

"The lambs came in mid April. In early November they were weighed and a portion sold. The latter averaged nearly 90 pounds each, and brought nearly $9 each without having consumed a pound of grain, hay or tame pasture feed."

SLACKER FOWLS EXPOSED BY BOY

"And a little child (especially a boy or girl club member) shall lead them."

E. A. Raymond, county agent of Wright county, reports to the home office at University Farm that when a Cokato boy culled his flock of 130 hens he found 60 which were non-producers. His father and mother laughed at him, writes Mr. Raymond, and would not allow him to sell the culls until he had convinced them he knew what he was about. The boy proved his case by putting the alleged slackers into a separate pen for an entire week during which he did not receive an egg from the 60 fowls.

HEN LOSING GRIP ON THE 8-HOUR DAY

A neat trick is now being played on the hen in many parts of Minnesota. Poultrymen here and there have entered the highly specialized class, in that they are stimulating egg production, when eggs are worth the most, by illuminating poultry houses and thus lengthening the working day of the flock. Possibly the hen might call it a mean trick, if her viewpoint could be determined; but as she is given more time in which to eat and exercise—diversions in which she delights—no particular sympathy is being wasted upon her.

N. E. Chapman, poultryman with the agricultural extension division at University Farm, says that a poultry keeper at Barnum received an average of 11 eggs in a given 30-day period from a flock of 375 pullets. He put in electric lights, turning them on from 6 a.m. until daylight and from sundown until 9 p.m., and in the next 30 days reaped a harvest of 18 eggs to the bird. With eggs at 80 cents a dozen, this poultryman certainly had something to show for his enterprise.

Mr. Chapman is using artificial light with excellent results in his poultry houses near University Farm. He doubts whether the average yearly production will be materially stimulated, but has satisfied himself that a lighting system makes for more eggs in the winter time when prices are highest. The longer working day means more eggs at the right time.

FARM ICE HOUSE PLANS FOR A DIME

The department of agriculture of the state university is prepared to furnish plans for a farm ice house. The plans are for a building 12 by 14 feet, having a capacity of 16 tons of ice. If the ice is cheap and loss by melting is not a serious drawback, the building can be simplified and construction costs cut to some extent.

"An ice house on the farm," says H. B. White of the division of agricultural engineering, "can be a very simple structure and, if natural ice is near at hand, the expense for ice during hot weather will be small compared with the benefits derived. Planer chips or sawdust make satisfactory insulation It is important that the ice be stored when the temperature is low so that the cakes can be frozen together by the addition of water. Ventilation at the ridge, or by means of slatted openings at each gable end, is very important, especially if the sun shines upon the roof. Water from the melting ice should be allowed to seep away through cinders or gravel or the ice will melt rapidly in warm weather."

Copies of the plans can be procured for 10 cents a copy to cover costs by addressing the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

SAYS STEERS CAN BE FED AT PROFIT

That steers can be fed at a profit this winter is the belief of H. H. Kildee of Iowa State College, formerly chief of the dairy husbandry division, Minnesota College of Agriculture. There are 50 per cent less cattle in Iowa feed lots, he says, than a year ago. Since fewer farmers are feeding he believes that meat prices are bound to be higher in the spring. After remarking that feeding is the surest way to get the greatest margin out of the grain crop, he gives this assurance:

"There is no reason for anxiety at this time over the feeder question, since cattle purchased now will come out all right."

72 FARM BUILDING PLANS FOR $3.50

A complete set of 72 farm building plans, prepared by staff men in the offices of the engineering division at University Farm, will be sent to any address on receipt of $3.50 at the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul. The plans are for houses, barns, granaries, corn cribs, ice houses and sheds. A miscellaneous list has plans for silos, potato warehouses and farmsteads.

GOOD RATION FOR EGG PRODUCTION

Here is a ration for winter egg production recommended by A. C. Smith, chief of the division of poultry husbandry, University Farm:

Dry Mash

2 parts bran	6 parts cornmeal
2 parts alfalfa meal	4 parts ground oats
7 parts meat scrap	4 parts middlings

Grain

2 parts cracked corn	1 part barley
1 part oats	

TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE TRACTOR

The farmer who takes proper care of his machinery gets the biggest returns on his investment. Five rules on the care of the tractor in winter are presented by J. L. Larson of University Farm, assistant instructor in farm motors:

Clean the tractor thoroughly, using kerosene and a brush where necessary.

Put about an oil-can full of oil in cooling systems before draining water. Then be absolutely certain the cooling system is entirely drained so that no water remains to freeze and burst water jackets of motor or pump. Drain out fuel tank, carburetor and entire fuel system.

After motor is cold, pour about a pint of heavy oil into each cylinder and spin motor a few times to distribute oil thoroughly. Inspect all motor bearings and coat with oil if not oily. Are bearings loose?

All interior surfaces that are finished or moving parts should be covered with a coat of heavy oil.

See that magneto is well covered with oiled paper or protected from moisture. If tractor cannot be placed in a good shed, cover with canvas or anything else that will protect it from the elements.

"Now is the time to remember that leaky radiator, motor knock, those broken bolts and the gear that needed replacement," says Mr. Larson. "Make a list of all the extras you need and order them. Also make a notation of other repair work needed on tractor. There will be sufficient time to do this before the spring work starts."

MONEY SAVED BY CURING OWN MEAT

Asserting that there is no profit in selling pigs and buying pork, the Weekly News Letter of the federal department of agriculture, copies of which have been received at University Farm, urges farmers to cure their own meat.

Many farmers who raise pigs, says the News Letter, feel that the expense of curing hams and preparing pork products is too great, but some of the best results are secured through the use of inexpensive supplies and equipment. The tools and equipment necessary for killing and cutting up a pig are: A straight 8-inch sticking knife, a cutting knife, a bell shaped scraper, a meat saw, a hog hook and gambrel, and an old barrel for scalding. Mny farmers have an outbuilding while others have regular brick smokehouses in which the hams, shoulders, and bacons may be hung and smoked.

The meat for smoking, if brine-cured, should be taken from the brine, soaked in water for half an hour, washed, and hung in the smokehouse to drain. It should dry for 24 hours before the fire is started. Hang the meat at a distance from the fire so it will warm up gradually and not become too hot. Take care that the pieces do not touch one another.

For fuel, use green hickory, maple, or any hard wood. Never use resinous wood. The time required to smoke a lot of meat is from 36 to 48 hours, but a slower and longer smoking is desirable if the meat is to be kept for a long time.

TWO MENUS FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER

Two menus for the Christmas dinner, one calling for roast turkey, the other for roast goose, have been prepared for this issue of Farm Press News by Alice M. Child of the home economics division at University Farm, St. Paul. They certainly listen good. Here they are:

Fruit Cocktail
Roast Turkey, Dressing, Gravy
Mashed Turnips — Riced Potatoes
Celery
Cranberry Frappe
Rolls, Butter — Squash Pie
Nuts — Coffee — Raisins

Oyster Cocktail
Roast Goose Stuffed with Apples, Gravy
Mashed Potatoes — Baked Squash
Head Lettuce with Thousand Island Dressing
Salted Almonds — Candies
Coffee

ASK FOR BULLETIN ON SEPTIC TANKS

One of the first steps toward farm home conveniences is the septic tank. Special Bulletin No. 50, by H. B. Roe of the division of farm engineering, University of Minnesota, will tell you how to install one. Write to the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn., for a copy.