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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.

Good Word for Farm Press News

L. H. Johnson, Minneapolis business man and former speaker of the Minnesota house of representatives, holds in pleasant remembrance the early days which he spent on a farm. He likes the Farm Press News, too. In a communication to the editor he says: "The man who has had any farm experience will as a rule remember it as the best experience of his life, and personally I often look back to the days that I spent on the home farm in Michigan.

"For many years I have been receiving your Farm Press News and I read every issue with much interest. In your last issue, I noticed the little write-up about 'Slacker Fowls Exposed by Boy.' This lad is entitled to a whole lot of credit, especially when he had to convince the older folks of his findings.

"I wish to congratulate you in printing such items, as they will no doubt do much good, especially among the younger generation of farm boys and girls of Minnesota."

Dunwoody Adds More Linotypes

Acting upon the request of the Minnesota Editorial Association, officials of Dunwoody Industrial Institute of Minneapolis have added five new linotype machines and now have a battery of 11 for the training of linotype operators in the courses in printing. C. A. Prosser, director of Dunwoody, says that places are available in the class for 20 students, and he urges the editors of Minnesota to keep the quota full in order that the institution may be of the largest possible service to them by maintaining an adequate supply of operators. There is no charge for tuition for students from Minnesota in the linotype class. A fee of \$6 to cover registration, and a laboratory fee of \$5 a month for material and supplies are charged.

Paper Stock for the Growing

William B. Greeley, chief of forest service, United States department of agriculture, says the paper problem of the United States is primarily a forest problem, and that in the application of forestry to the enormous areas of cut-over land lies the only effective solution of the national paper problem in the future. The New England and Middle Atlantic states, he finds, contain 31,000,000 acres of logged off land and the Lake states contain 33,000,000 acres more. This timber growing area is adjacent to scores of paper making plants and could supply these mills several times over with pulp wood, says the chief forester, if they were but kept at work growing it.

Hint for the Publisher

The editor of The American Press holds that declining prices for merchandise really spells more advertising opportunity to the wideawake newspaper man. "Many merchants have stocked up at higher prices," says The Press, "and many of them must face a loss. The loss can be minimized by a rapid turnover, and advertising means just that. If properly approached, the local merchants are now ripe for the most extensive advertising campaign they have ever indulged in."

Farm vs. City Life

A retired farmer who has been able to give a fair trial to both, remarks in a communication that the blessings of farm life are not all mythical and that metropolitan life is not all peaches and cream. "Don't let them tell you," he says, "that God has drained the countryside dry of blessings and concentrated happiness exclusively on the city folks. Because, by golly, He ain't done no such a dern thing."

Keeps Right on Smiling

An Arkansas editor believes that "A smile is the same in all languages." He has nailed the truism to his masthead and is said to turn on the smiles even when the gas engine balks.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

January 1 to 8

Squash were retailing at \$1.40 a ton in Minneapolis about the middle of December.

Strawberries are sometimes grown in the greenhouses on private estates. This is an expensive, though interesting, method.

Home canned vegetables are coming to be more important in our home life each year, as the recent exhibit of canned stuff at the horticultural show indicated.

Don't try to grow fruits without using a spraying machine. Now is a good time to find the one best adapted to your needs and to secure it. Wormy fruit does not sell well.

All of the meetings of the State Horticultural Society were well attended by enthusiastic horticulturists. A good, but small, show of fruit and vegetables was made and excellent papers read.

Two plates of good pears from New Ulm, Minn., were shown at the winter meeting of the State Horticultural Society. The grower says this variety of pears has done well on his place for seventeen years.

Have you a good variety of butter-nut, walnut or hazel nut in your neighborhood? The horticultural society is offering some good prizes for superior nuts.

Resolve to plant that windbreak and set out small fruits and a few ornamentals about the home. In order to keep the resolution, mail the order to your nurseryman today. Then you will have to get the ground ready and plant next year.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

January 8 to 15

Large beets furnish excellent green food for poultry during the winter.

Clematis paniculata is a pretty autumn flowering vine that does well in partly shaded places or in the open.

Many varieties of the chrysanthemum do well in the house. They can be grown in the garden over summer and taken up in early fall to grow in the house.

Save all droppings from the hen roost. Keep them dry and apply to the garden next summer. They are rich in nitrogen. Better store them in boxes or barrels rather than on the roost.

Trade marks on good produce are worth while. The strawberry or other fruit grower can soon work up a permanent market for his goods if they are uniform and known by some distinctive mark.

Farmers' club meetings and short courses are fine places to spend a few hours each month at this time of year. Now is also a good time to read books, magazines and bulletins on gardening.

D. C. Webster's achievement in winning sweepstakes on nearly everything in the apple line at the Council Bluffs show would indicate that a lot of the land along the river in southeastern Minnesota might profitably be put into orchards.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

HEAT, LIGHT BAD FOR POTATOES NOW

Losses of potatoes in storage can be minimized if proper care and attention are given through the winter. Adequate ventilation must be provided. Storage places should be kept uniformly cool, dark and frost proof. These precautions are emphasized by potato men of the Minnesota College of Agriculture. Decay, shrinkage and sprouting are caused by light and high temperature.

NEW CONVENIENCES IN FARM HOMES

Many conveniences to lighten the work of women are being introduced in farm homes in Minnesota by the home demonstration agents directed by the state leader, Julia O. Newton, from the office of extension work with women at University Farm. Fifteen water systems have been installed through the advice of five agents. Two hundred sixty-three homemade fireless cookers have saved at least \$2,630 in initial cost besides the saving in fuel and time. One hundred seventy-one remodeled garments saved \$1,808.50, while \$1,657.93 was saved in the making of 226 new ones. Six hundred sixty-three homemade dress forms, which cost about a dollar each, saved their owners \$3,177.30. By the use of these forms dresses can be made at home and more dollars saved.

GOOD VENTILATION A BOON TO STOCK

If your stable has a foul, stifling odor in the morning and if there is frost on the side walls and ceiling, then your building needs ventilation, says E. A. Stewart of the agricultural engineering division at University Farm. It is not always possible to keep out all frost, but there should be very little, if any, except during the bitter cold days of winter.

"Barns should have walls that are built to keep in the warmth of the stock," says Mr. Stewart. "There should not be cracks around doors and windows where the snow and icy blasts can blow in. It is best to use storm windows on all openings into the stable. Do not have a large stable with only a few head of stock in it. If you do not need all of the room, partition off a part of it. Even a canvas can be used for this purpose. A cow should not be required to heat more than 700 cubic feet of space; about 550 cubic feet is an average value. A horse may be expected to heat about 1,000 cubic feet of space, but 700 or 800 cubic feet is a fair value.

"Make sure that the air intakes are provided with shutters or dampers so that you can control the amount of air coming in. Likewise, a shutter is needed on the foul air flues to control the amount of air removed. It is a good investment to buy a thermometer for your stable. Hang it in front of the stanchions, about level with your head. The temperature of the barn should be about 32 to 40 degrees when outside temperatures are around zero to 10 below. With the proper number of cattle or horses in it, and with the ventilators working properly, a well built barn will not be colder inside than 35 degrees even at outside temperatures of 30 degrees below zero."

Prof. E. A. Stewart, University Farm, St. Paul, will give further information on ventilation if you will write to him.

CORN BETTER THAN WOOD FOR FUEL

So many farmers in certain districts of Minnesota are burning corn for fuel, that inquiries have reached University Farm as to the relative heat units of corn, wood and coal. The average coal, which may be taken as the standard, varies in British thermal units from 10,000 to 14,000, depending on quality. Soft wood varies in such heat units from 6,000 to 7,000, while hard wood generally runs somewhat above 7,000. "B. T. U." is the technical expression for the heat required to raise a pound of water 1 degree Fahrenheit.

J. J. Willaman, plant chemist at University Farm, to whom a query was directed, made no direct determinations in the particular case, but said that calculations indicated that ear corn has a somewhat higher fuel value than good hard wood, pound for pound or ton for ton, varying, of course, according to the amount of moisture in the corn. Mr. Willaman estimates that the fuel value of corn cobs alone is equal to that of soft wood.

HOT MEAL SERVED IN 167 SCHOOLS

Six home demonstration agents of the little band out over the state report to Julia O. Newton of University Farm, state leader, that they installed hot lunches in 167 schools during the past year.

An estimated saving of \$6,174 was made in counties having home demonstration agents by work done in culling poultry. Not only was there a saving in feed bills, but less time had to be spent in caring for the fowls that produced eggs.

Eighty-three iceless refrigerators have been made in Minneapolis since July 1, 1920, according to the agent representing the Minneapolis Home Center.

St. Louis county reports a saving on home-canned products of \$6,768.86.

UNIVERSITY OFFERS 4 SHORT COURSES

The general extension division of the University of Minnesota is offering a 12-weeks short course in embalming, beginning January 4; a short course for bankers, with the cooperation of the Minnesota Bankers' association, January 17-21, and a short course in citizenship for women voters, in cooperation with the Minnesota League of Women Voters, January 24-28. The annual training school for merchants will be held from January 31 to February 4, the five days to be devoted to special practical work on the problems of retailing. Full information regarding these courses can be obtained by writing the general extension division, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

CARE OF A ROOM NEW CLUB STUNT

The care and furnishing of a single room, preferably a sleeping room, in the farm or village home, is a phase of junior club work which will be taken up this year under the direction of Margaret B. Baker, assistant club leader, with headquarters at University Farm.

This new work will not be a project in itself, but will supplement the garmentmaking work for girls who are in the work the second year, just as cake-making supplements bread work. Girl club members will be encouraged to keep their room scrupulously neat and clean and to beautify it with the things which they can make.

The competition in cakemaking, which will culminate at the state fair in September, will be between teams rather than between individuals, as was the case last year.

With the addition of cakemaking and care of one's own room, the breadmaking and garmentmaking projects ought to be more popular in 1921 than ever before. Twenty thousand boys and girls have been enrolled in Minnesota breadmaking clubs since the first organization seven years ago. In 1913 Minnesota held fifth place among the states for its home-made bread. In 1918 the state had moved up to first place. The United States department of agriculture and other organizations that ought to know, attribute Minnesota's prestige in breadmaking largely to the general interest created by boys and girls clubs of the state.

ESSENTIALS OF THE SUCCESSFUL SHOW

The number of local exhibitors is largely the measure, says N. E. Chapman, University Farm poultry extensionist, of the success of poultry shows. Fanciers, he finds, will send their birds to shows of high reputation, but county and home associations must have the whole hearted support of exhibitors from the nearby territory in order to be a success.

Attendance is also a prime essential. "The largest attendance possible should be sought," says Mr. Chapman, "and it is good policy for the associations receiving state aid to have free admissions. Because of the educational advantages offered, school children should have full opportunity to visit these shows." A third essential for a good show, he says, is a convenient and adequate exhibition room.

In Minnesota the poultry show season is compressed into the months of December and January and the first half of February. Within this period of 66 days about 68 shows are slated to be held.

Associations desiring help in putting on poultry institutes should get in touch with agricultural extension division men at University Farm.

ENERGETIC FOWLS THE BEST LAYERS

"The fowl that lays during the winter is the one that lays best during the summer months," says Annabelle Campbell, poultry specialist in the office of extension work with women, University Farm. "The fowl that lays best under adverse conditions is the one that also, after a short rest, produces eggs when the conditions are most nearly right. The fowl that produces during the winter, rests for a short time and then comes into laying in the spring and continues laying during the summer months until fall. The best fowls in the flock are those that require the least amount of rest."

POTATO EXCHANGE STANDING THE TEST

James Cumming, community and county leader, member of the state legislature, and president of the Minnesota Potato Exchange, the cooperative society organized by growers for marketing potatoes, is confident that the exchange is going to weather every storm and be a big success. He says: "The Minnesota Potato Exchange has stood a test since its organization which it will not be called upon to go through again, furnishing ample proof that it will solve most of the farmers' problems by bringing him more closely in touch with the consumer and serving as a medium by which he can obtain farming equipment and supplies at the least possible cost. "The Exchange has been built on a firm foundation, and, though difficulties have had to be overcome, like other conservative enterprises it is bound to succeed. Some day these farmers' exchanges will be handling wool, vegetables, honey, hay and grain, giving each as much attention as is given potatoes now."

COWS TURN CHEAP GRAIN INTO PROFIT

A greater profit may be made from feeding grain to dairy cows this winter than ever before, on account of the low price of grain and the high price of butterfat.—A. J. McGuire, livestock and dairy specialist with the agricultural extension division, University of Minnesota

Mr. McGuire has long been a student of feed requirements for the production of butterfat. He has found that the average common cow is capable of producing 200 pounds of butterfat a year. The average half-breed dairy cow can surpass the average common cow by 50 pounds of butterfat a year, while the average high grade and purebred cow is capable, if properly handled, of producing 300 pounds of butterfat a year.

"It requires a certain amount of feed to produce a pound of butterfat," says Mr. McGuire, "and the amount of feed required depends upon the kind of feed and also upon the kind of cow. A ration composed of 15 pounds of clover or alfalfa hay, 30 pounds of corn silage, 5 pounds of ground oats, and 3 pounds of ground corn, contains sufficient feed for a cow weighing 1,000 pounds and producing a pound of butterfat a day, or 25 pounds of 4 per cent milk. The cost of this ration at farm prices may be estimated at between 20 and 25 cents. The whole ration can be produced on the average Minnesota farm, and it is a good ration for milk production.

"Without clover or alfalfa hay in a ration, a greater amount of grain is required for the production of one pound of butterfat in a day. A ration composed of timothy or wild hay or corn stover would require daily 15 pounds of grain composed of 5 pounds of bran, 2 pounds of oilmeal, 5 pounds of ground oats and 3 pounds of ground corn. The cost of this ration would be one-fifth higher on account of the greater amount of grain used and the more expensive grain.

"With a good grade of clover or alfalfa hay and corn silage, not much grain is required—not more than one pound of grain to three or four pounds of milk. With a poor grade of roughage, timothy, wild hay, corn stalks and straw, one pound of grain is required daily for every two pounds of milk produced daily.

"Roots of any kind may be made to take the place of a part of the grain in a ration. From 7 to 10 pounds of roots are required to take the place of one pound of grain."

HENS APPRECIATE GOOD NIGHT FEED

A hen consumes approximately four ounces of food a day, and poultry authorities at University Farm find she will eat two ounces of this in the form of dry mash when it is available. These ground grains are quickly digested, and the fowl is saved the trouble of grinding all the feed in her crop. Thus by feeding dry mash production can be forced.

The other two ounces of feed, says the poultrymen, should be in the form of whole or cracked grains, fed twice a day in a deep, clean litter, giving a little less than an ounce in the morning and a little more than an ounce at night. The hen's crop is small and the winter nights are long, consequently the heavier feeding should be given at night. Care should be taken always that the fowls go on the roosts with full crops.

CROP PECULIARITY NOTICED AT DULUTH

An interesting crop peculiarity is reported by M. J. Thompson, superintendent of the Northeast Experiment Station at Duluth.

One of the crop rotations at the station consists of oats followed by clover-timothy meadow, followed in its turn by potatoes and rutabagas—half plots side by side. There is a distinct difference, Mr. Thompson says, in the hay crop on the potato land and the hay crop on the rutabaga land. Eighteen plots are involved, and on almost every plot following rutabagas there is an abundance of timothy with some clover, while on the potato land there is more clover than timothy. This peculiarity extends over several years, so that the principle appears well established.

Mr. Thompson says the explanation possibly lies in tillage. The potato land, which is worked more, is somewhat loose for grain as compared to the rutabaga land. With a somewhat thinner stand of grain the clover gets a better start and produces a heavier stand the second year. The timothy, apparently less affected, comes on later in quantity and fills the space which the clover did not utilize.