

## UNIVERSITY FARM PRESS NEWS

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

VOL. XII

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., FEBRUARY 15, 1921

NO. 4

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

## NOTE TO EDITORS

In most of the items which appear in the University Farm Press News, and in other material sent from the Office of Publications at University Farm, reference is usually made to the College of Agriculture or to some member of the faculty as authority for the information given. This reference is given merely in order that editors may know that the information comes straight from some one who knows or ought to know the facts as to the matter under discussion. Editors should feel that they are welcome to use the items without such references if they prefer to do so.

## TWO CONTESTS FOR MINNESOTA EDITORS

Two good contests in which Minnesota editors may compete for \$50 in cash prizes offered by the Publicity Department of the Minnesota State Fair will be features of the annual editors' short course at University Farm, St. Paul, which will probably be held early in May.

One of these will be a Front-Page Make-Up contest, the first prize for which will be \$15 and the second \$10. The other will be a Farm News Department contest, the first prize for which will be \$15 and the second \$10.

The front-page make-up contest will be conducted according to the rules which have prevailed in former years. Front pages to be submitted for this contest should be taken from papers between now and the last week in April.

The farm news department contest is something new. It is for country weeklies which are carrying such a feature in their regular issues, and any exhibit offered for the contest will be judged according to its merits as a department interesting and satisfying to the readers of a country weekly. Papers having such departments should be submitted by May 1—not later.

The short course this year is going to be rich in offerings if present plans can be carried out. The program as drafted now includes:

A great round table discussion as a real sure enough self-starter the first afternoon.

A rousing dinner the opening evening, with an address by William Allen White—if we can get him—famous as the editor of the Emporia Gazette and as a novelist and thinker; also an address by L. D. Coffman, president of the University of Minnesota.

A University Symphony Orchestra concert with a saxophone sextette as an added feature.

A motion picture comedy.

Addresses by Rt. Rev. G. G. Bennett, Bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Duluth; Prof. Bristow Adams of the Department of Agriculture of Cornell University, New York.

Then there will be a whole series of sessions on "how to make a country weekly that every person in your territory will wish to read and will read, from column 1, page 1, to the last '\$\$\$' ad' on the final page."

It may not be possible to realize on all of this, but we are going to make the effort of our lives to do so.

We appeal to the editors of Minnesota to help us by full cooperation.

WATCH FOR OUR LETTERS

We are going to keep them coming.

## University and Agriculture

The editor of the Jordan, Minn., Independent said in a recent issue:

"Minnesota university has done a great deal for agriculture. There are the research stations and the college of agriculture. Thousands of trained men and women have been graduated. A high percentage of these have continued farming. The agricultural extension division has been of great value to the state's farming industry also. The university fostered the entire cooperative movement as well as the crop-breeding work. The latter has produced results almost incalculable, while every farmer's cooperative creamery is a monument to the successful efforts of the university along that line."

## Bouquet for Press News

In a note written to the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota, Prof. C. D. Steiner of the department of rural education, University of Utah, says: "I consider the University Farm Press News among the most valuable farm literature that comes to our department and I want to thank you for keeping us on your mailing list."

## ORCHARD AND GARDEN

February 15 to 22

A potted plant or bouquet of flowers makes a good valentine gift.

Gross aun Teplitz is a good garden rose. A few roses in a sunny place add much to the garden.

Look over all bulbs and remove any that are softening or starting to decay.

Order seeds as soon as possible. When they are received it is a good plan to put them in a covered tin or other receptacle so that mice do not get at them.

Beta, Alpha, and Janesville grapes can be grown almost anywhere in Minnesota. Delaware, Niagara, and Campbell Early are worth giving a little extra attention in order to get them to grow.

Prune early flowering shrubs after they have flowered. Fall blooming shrubs may be pruned early in spring.

Now is a good time to clear fences, trees and buildings of advertisements and candidates' pictures. When they are off, why not keep others from going up.

Definite amounts are set aside by business firms for advertising. It pays. People read the papers and a well written advertisement sells horticultural products as well as merchandise.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

## ORCHARD AND GARDEN

February 22 to 28

Warm days now may be used to advantage in pruning the apple and shade trees.

Large consignments of Japanese oranges are appearing on the Canadian market in competition to California sorts.

There seems to be a shortage of ornamental shrubs of all sorts this year. Some of the new varieties of plums and other fruits are hard to get.

Soil for seeding early plants should be fine and fibrous. Clay that packs easily is not good soil in which to grow seeds. Add sand or leaf mold to lighten it.

Hot beds can be started late this month or early next. Be sure the manure is heating well before it is put in the frame. Lettuce, radishes and early onions may be easily started.

We hear much these days about planting shrubbery and flowers and establishing good fruit and vegetable gardens on the farm. They all pay in money value as well as added comfort.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

## BETTER LOOK FOR SOYBEAN SEED NOW

Seed of soybean varieties that are best adapted to growing in Minnesota for seed production is scarce, therefore, all who desire to grow soybeans for seed should look about for seed at an early date. Chestnut, Minnesota No. 110, is probably the most satisfactory variety, and Wisconsin Black is also a satisfactory variety for central and southern Minnesota for this purpose.

For northern Minnesota, earlier varieties must be sown for seed production. Minsoy, an early maturing, heavy yielding variety, is probably best adapted for that section. However, it is too low growing for silage production, but is excellent for hogging-off purposes.

For silage production in southern Minnesota, such varieties as Medium Yellow, Medium Green, and Haberlandt are suitable.—A. C. Army, in charge of farm crops, Minnesota college of agriculture and experiment station.

## MINDUM SAID TO BE BEST DURUM

Warning that the demand for durum wheat in Minnesota for milling purposes is limited and that, therefore, it is not desirable that too many growers produce this kind of wheat, experiment station men at University Farm recommend Mindum, Minnesota No. 470, for planting by those who have decided to put part of their acreage into durum. Mindum is moderately rust resistant, they say, and has for several years proven a reliable yielder under Minnesota conditions. Monad, an amber durum selection made in North Dakota, appears to be highly rust resistant, but on a limited test it has been found lower in yield than Mindum. Its real value in Minnesota has not been established. White Pentad, or D5, a red durum, is rust resistant, it is of low milling value and should not be planted, say the station men, when seed of more desirable varieties can be procured. Acne, an amber durum of good quality selected in South Dakota, is rust resistant, but has proved to be over a period of years a distinctly lower yielder than Mindum.

## EGGS AND CREAM GIVE BARNUM FAME

The creamery at Barnum, center of a little "cutover" community in northern Minnesota, paid \$282,269.96 for eggs and \$814,324.63 for cream brought in by patrons during the decade ending December 31, 1920. The grand total for eggs and cream during the ten years was \$1,096,594.59. Eggs and cream marketed by farmers at Barnum in 1920 brought cash returns of more than a quarter of a million dollars, or, to be exact, \$268,523.19. These figures have just been transmitted by the creamery men to the agricultural extension division of the state university.

In 1911, the first year of the decade, \$8,094.47 was paid for eggs. Only in one year, 1913, did the egg money fall below that of the previous year. In all other years there was a consistent increase until, in 1920, the egg money amounted to \$69,793.06. Starting the decade with \$25,767.09 paid out in 1911 for cream, \$198,730.13 was paid for this product in 1920. Each year showed a steady gain. Making due allowances for the higher prices paid the last few years for both products, the number of eggs marketed increased at least five-fold and the quantity of cream at least three-fold.

Every cream day at Barnum—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday—an average of \$445 is paid out for eggs alone.

Barnum's farms are small, averaging no more than 90 acres with an average of but 31 acres cleared to the farm. The farmers grow roughage for their dairy stock, and potatoes and other root crops. They haven't the cleared land for very much grain and are constant buyers of this kind of feed.

## BARBERRY HEDGE SPOILED 10 CROPS

Hundreds and hundreds of instances can be cited to show that the common barberry is the most important factor in the spread of rust in northwest states. In a government bulletin on rust and barberry, Dr. E. C. Stakman of University Farm relates the experience of a farmer at Crystal Bay, Lake Minnetonka, Minn., who had a barberry hedge of 635 bushes. He had tried to grow oats on his farm for 10 years, but each year the black stem rust destroyed almost all the grain. Then one spring he destroyed the hedge before the bushes had become rusted. Ten days before the harvest the field was examined thoroughly and no stem rust could be found. The yield and quality proved to be excellent. It was the first time in ten years that a crop had been grown successfully on that farm. Every Minnesota land owner should begin early in the spring to destroy the barberry for the protection of grain crops.

## STATE AID WILL BE PAID IN FULL

All poultry associations entitled to state aid, says N. E. Chapman, specialist of the agricultural extension service of the university, will be glad to know that there will be ample funds to pay all appropriations for the show season of 1920-21. However, a new appropriation bill must be passed by the present legislature if state aid is to be continued.

The Minnesota State Poultry Breeders association has a new legislative committee composed of C. O. Johnson and Frank Cross, both of Minneapolis, and William Kuhlmann of Winona, all prominent poultrymen. Officers and members of every poultry association of the state are urged to cooperate with these committeemen in obtaining an adequate amount of state aid for poultry shows of the next biennial period.

Some counties not on the state list for aid are organizing with the intention of joining the 75 already on the list. One of the latest counties to organize and report a list of officers is Le Sueur county.

## GRAIN, GRASS, THEN A CULTIVATED CROP

Rotations making use of a grass crop after grain, with a cultivated crop following the grass, continue to give best results, according to R.R. Smith, farm crops specialist at the substation connected with the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston. Thorough cultivation and control of noxious weeds, he says, are the two most important factors. Fertilizers and soil fertility tests at the station, he adds, continue to give average results only, with no special benefit due to commercial fertilizers over barnyard manure.

## KNOW YOUR OIL FOR TRACTOR USE

Lubrication is an all-important factor in the operation of a tractor during cold weather. "Care should be used," says J. L. Larson of the agricultural division of the state university, "in selecting an oil that will readily splash at the temperature at which it is to be used and yet have sufficient body to stand up under a load. Many have experienced difficulty in starting a tractor or an automobile on a cold morning when the oil was stiff. If motor is started this thick oil does not splash readily and consequently does not reach all bearing surfaces of the motor until thoroughly warmed up.

"If the motor is run too fast or pulled under load before the oil is warm, there will be undue wear on connecting rod bearings, piston pins, bushing, and cylinder walls. Many operators have found it of particular advantage to drain off oil each night and have the oil fairly warm before putting in tractor the next day. If transmission gears seem to run heavy or shift hard or not at all during cold weather, it is a good indication that transmission oil is too heavy to run at this temperature. The remedy is to use a lighter grade oil. If cup grease becomes frozen, one can be fairly sure there is water in it. Next time avoid buying this kind of grease.

"If the motor is difficult to start, pour a quantity of well warmed oil into each cylinder and spin the motor over several times to distribute oil thoroughly. This is done for the purpose of oiling piston and cylinder wall and thereby increasing compression which is necessarily weak when the oil is cold. Then prime with high test gasoline. It should start."

## FLOCKS MUST HAVE A GOOD EGG MASH

It is said that only a small per cent of the 180,000 farmers in Minnesota supply dry mash in any form to their fowls. Without a good egg mash a hen cannot lay the maximum of eggs. She requires daily a large amount of protein in the most available form to make the white or albumen of the egg. "Every poultry house," says N. E. Chapman of the agricultural extension division at University Farm, "should have a dry mash hopper well supplied with a good egg mash which will be accessible to the flock at all times. A well balanced egg mash supplying material in equal quantities for both yolk and white is made of equal parts by weight of finely ground cornmeal, bran, shorts, finely ground oats, and meat scraps. By feeding cottage cheese or buttermilk, the quantity of meat scraps may be reduced or fed separately in a hopper."

In journeying about the state Mr. Chapman has found only a few mash hoppers in poultry houses. One farmer told him he did not know of any neighbors who were feeding their flocks a dry mash. Instead, they were feeding their hens whole grains only, yet expecting them to return a maximum output of eggs.

## WHERE DID YOUR MONEY COME FROM?

While the net worth statement shows the earnings from the farm as a whole during a year's business, it does not give much information about those enterprises which were most profitable. On farms where some crops are sold for cash and where livestock products form another source of cash revenue, it is sometimes difficult to tell whether the profit is made on the sale of crops or on the sale of livestock. Sometimes one crop may prove profitable while another is unprofitable. Anyone wishing to know somewhat accurately the exact source of his receipts must do more than take an inventory from which a net worth statement can be made.

Cash records help to some extent, especially where the cash expenses and the cash receipts are distributed to the various enterprises, but these alone do not tell the whole story. Feed records, production records, and labor estimates are also necessary if all of the truth would be known.

Comparatively simple forms of records or methods of estimating can easily be devised which will give a fairly accurate knowledge of the farm business and of the source of receipts. Help can be obtained in this matter through county agents in almost every county, or through the farm management demonstrator at University Farm.

## BREEDING PEN FOR THE FARM FLOCK

All conditions indicate, says N. E. Chapman of the agricultural extension service of the state university, that poultry keeping will continue to be a profitable industry in 1921. The rare combination of high priced eggs and low priced feeds has served to focus general attention on the business of producing eggs and poultry products for the market.

One's chances of success with poultry, says Mr. Chapman, are greatly increased by a careful selection of a breeding-pen for the farm flock. Several points should be considered, namely, the number of birds required; maturity, healthy, high producing hens; standard qualities for breed and variety; time of mating; proper feeding for fertility, and comfortable housing and yardage.

The size of the pen will depend on the number of eggs desired during the hatching season. Four or five hatching eggs a week per bird and a limit of 7 to 10 days for strong "hatchability" will indicate the number required.

The breeders should have been high producers during their pullet year, late molters, of good body capacity and with large combs and wattles.

If possible, all breeders should be of standard shape, size, weight and color for the breed and variety. "Like begets like." As increased production is transmitted through the sire in a preponderating degree, a male should always be from a high producing strain or family and not too closely related to any of the hens. The earlier the mating the better.

A satisfactory ration is a scratch feed of equal parts of corn, wheat and oats in deep litter morning and night, feeding about a quart a day to a pen of 10 to 15 birds. Egg mash composed of equal parts of cornmeal, bran, shorts and finely ground oats should be supplied in a hopper. Buttermilk or skim milk should supply the protein rather than beef scraps at this time. Water, grit, oyster shells, charcoal and grain feed must be supplied.

The lack of comfortable housing and yardage is the common reason given for having no breeding-pen. A part of the poultry house may be partitioned off with wire or lumber and used for this purpose. A yard can be cheaply made for a moderate sized flock. If the breeding flock is large, it may share the free range with the laying flock, confining each on alternate days.

## WINTER OPERATION OF THE TRACTOR

"Special care must be taken," says J. L. Larson of University Farm, instructor in farm motors, "for winter operation of tractors. The two main things which may bother are the cooling system and lubrication of the motor and transmission. It is probably best to drain the water in the evening, as even a slight frost will injure the radiator or crack the water jackets.

"When running the tractor during the day, the lower portion of the radiator may be covered with a blanket to overcome freezing, as it is this part of the radiator that is subject to freezing first. It may be well in starting the tractor in the morning to pour some boiling hot water over the water pump, as enough water may have been left in the pump to freeze the motor fast to the housing. If this is not done, the pump or gear on pump shaft may be broken when you try to start the motor.

"Some experimenting has been done along the line of putting in non-freeze solutions in the cooling system, but it has not been very satisfactory because the alcohol carried in solution evaporates more quickly than the water and because the boiling point of this solution is much lower than the water. Neither oils nor kerosene in the cooling systems are very satisfactory because they do not radiate heat quickly enough. This is another instance where one must use his own judgment."

## SCHOOLS OFFERED ARBOR DAY TREES

The Cloquet Forest Experiment Station gives schools within the state an opportunity to secure twenty-five evergreen trees for Arbor Day planting. A sum of 35 cents must accompany the request to pay for the cost of digging, packing and mailing. Schools procuring evergreens under this offer are requested to report on the condition of the trees. Send all requests with remittances to the superintendent of Forest Experiment Station, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn., by April 1. No requests received after April 1 can be filed and only one shipment to a school. This offer holds only to schools.