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EDITOR'S COLUMN

CHANGE IN EDITORS' COURSE CONTESTS

Instead of a front page make-up contest a general make-up contest will be one of the features of the Editors Short Course at University Farm, May 5, 6, and 7. This change is made at the suggestion of several Minnesota editors who believe that the make-up of the whole paper is far more important than the make-up of the front page merely. For this reason the committee in charge of the contest has decided to try a whole-paper make-up contest this year.

The other contest, as announced, will be for the best farm news department.

Two prizes will be offered in each contest, a first prize of \$15 and a second of \$10. Funds for these prizes are from the publicity department of the Minnesota State Fair, of which Ray P. Speer is the manager.

The first feature of the short course will be a roundtable discussion of problems about which editors all over the state are writing at this time. A list of the questions will be sent to the editors of the state later, so that they may come to the course loaded with ideas. A country editor who has been successful in solving many of the problems will conduct the discussion. A complimentary dinner, given by the Minneapolis Journal at University Farm for the visiting editors, will take place Thursday evening, May 5. H. V. Jones, editor of the Journal, L. D. Coffman, president of the University of Minnesota, and other speakers will be on the program.

The program will deal almost wholly with editorial problems, the big problem being now to make a readable newspaper from column one, page one, to the last ad on the last page.

PHILIP LIESCH HEADS EDITORS' ASSOCIATION

Philip Liesch of the Brown County Journal, New Ulm, was elected president of the Minnesota Editorial Association at the closing session of its annual meeting in St. Paul, Saturday, February 19. W. E. Verity, of the Wadena Pioneer Journal, was made first vice president; J. P. Coughlin, of the Waseca Herald, second vice president; Martin J. McGowan, of the Appleton Press and the Swift County Monitor, third vice president; John E. Casey, of the Jordan Independent, was re-elected secretary; and H. C. Hoisting, of the Blue Earth County Enterprise, Mapleton, was elected treasurer. L. C. Hodgson, mayor of St. Paul, continues as historian. Harold Barker, of the Grant County Herald, Elbow Lake, was elected a member of the executive committee to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of Will Wilke of the Grey Eagle Gazette.

The meeting was one of the best in the history of the organization and J. R. Landy, of the Olivia Times, with the other members of the executive committee, who framed the program, received many congratulations on the program offered and the successful way in which it was carried out.

An outstanding feature of the closing business session was the introduction of vigorous resolutions on Americanism and in favor of the censoring of motion pictures. The adoption of the "movie" resolution was warmly supported by a large number of editors who vigorously condemned many of the films which are being offered as immoral, often bordering on indecency.

The banquet, held in the Palm Room of the St. Paul hotel, was a delightful affair, given by the St. Paul association, officials of the city of St. Paul, the Supply Men's association of St. Paul, the St. Paul Dispatch, and the St. Paul Daily News.

A CHANCE FOR SOME ONE

The editor of the University Farm Press News has just learned that the publisher of one of southern Minnesota's successful country weeklies has decided to dispose of his property in order to take a good vacation. For nearly twenty-five years this man has maintained his paper and printing plant on a prosperous footing, and believes that he has earned a rest. He values his property, including plant, goodwill, and building—two stories of brick and stone, with offices and plant downstairs and residence flat upstairs—at \$18,000. The Press News editor regards the opening as a desirable one.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

March 1 to 8

Cuttings of chrysanthemums and house plants may be made now for garden or lawn use.

Start sweet peas in pots or berry boxes now to be set outside when the ground is settled.

Wild grape, Beta grape, Clematis, Virginia Creeper and Bitter Sweet are all good vines to have about the home.

Early flower seeds, celery and early cabbage may be sown now and transplanted to flats later.

A ton of stable manure contains about 25 pounds of plant food. It also adds much humus which is needed in nearly all soils.

Onions started now and transplanted to the ground as soon as it can be worked will give early onions and permit the growing of some of the large mild sorts that do not always ripen here.

New or very dry flower pots should be soaked in water before planting seeds. A good way to water newly sown pots of seed is to set them in a pan or bucket of water.

Good tools, sharp and fitted for the task for which they are to be used lighten the work in any garden. Study catalogs now and be prepared for summer work by buying new tools or putting old ones in order.—Le Roy Cady, assistant horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

March 8 to 15

Start gladiolus in pots late this month for early flowers.

Danish Ball Head is good cabbage if you get a good strain.

Sow sweet peas outside as soon as the ground can be worked comfortably.

Hot beds should be underway now. Give ventilation, but prevent sudden changes of air in the frames.

Lettuce started in a home window may be set outdoors and will often give earlier lettuce than when sown outdoors.

Straw flowers or everlasting make good winter bouquets. They may be sown in the ground or started now in pots. Some are good summer flowers.

A cold frame is a good place to start early flower and vegetable seeds. It won't give as early results as the hot bed, but is earlier than outdoors. Try a few things in one.

It is a good plan to put about one inch of rotted manure in the bottom of a flat before filling it for transplanting. This makes it easier to cut out the plants to put in the field.

Order seed for the garden now. Start those varieties in the house or hot beds that are wanted early. Send to the secretary of the State Horticultural Society at University Farm for a folder giving good varieties of seeds and plants.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

MOLD IN SILAGE DUE TO DRYNESS

The usual number of complaints are coming in regarding the presence of mold in silage. Mold can grow only when air is present. Air generally gets in as the result of the silage being too dry when put into the silo. If water was added not enough was used. Poor packing may cause the same trouble. Mold around the doors and against the wall is the result of poor construction of the silo which allows air to enter. Nothing can be done now to remedy the condition. At the next filling time special care should be taken to see that the corn contains enough moisture and that it is well tramped. It is always safest to reject moldy silage especially for horses and sheep, although for cattle there seems to be little danger.—C. H. Eckles, chief of the division of dairy husbandry, University Farm.

YEAR'S WAR ON BUGS HAS BEGUN

Horticulturists of the University of Minnesota are beginning the year's war on insect pests now by urging farmers, fruit growers and gardeners to start the fight at once for control in 1921 of the insects and diseases that are now dormant. Such insects and diseases will become active agencies of destruction when the growing fruit season again appears. Sprayers and spray materials should be ordered at once so they will be ready for use when needed, say the horticulturists. In sections where the orchards are not large, they recommend that fruit growers organize spray rings. The spray ring has proved its success in many counties in Iowa, especially in Benton county in that state. Minnesota county agents are ready to help this year along.

FITTING HORSES FOR SPRING DRIVE

Farmers are now talking about the condition of horses for spring work. An animal is in condition, says N. K. Carnes of the animal husbandry division at University Farm, when it is "in that state best able to produce," and a farm horse is best able to produce hard work when its bony framework is covered with a set of thick hard muscles not obscured by fat; when it has a keen spirit for work, a bright eye, and a bloom to its coat of hair. If a farmer is to get his work stock in condition for spring work, he must reach a balance between feed and exercise.

"Three different methods of wintering horses are practiced in this state," says Mr. Carnes. "The first is to winter them on cheap roughage such as oat straw and corn stover with very little, if any, grain. A ration of this kind is bulky and low in digestible nutrients, and will generally result in loss of weight. Horses wintered in this way must be started on grain again a month or six weeks prior to the beginning of spring work, because they must be gaining in weight and hardened up if they are to 'hit the collar'."

"The second method of wintering is lots of grain and very little exercise. Horses under this system of management are usually hog fat and should be started to work gradually."

"The third method is when a horse is kept in condition all winter by feeding a sufficient ration and balancing it with plenty of exercise in hauling stove wood, manure, hay, and feed. These horses should be cut down a little on roughage, and their grain ration increased two weeks before hard work begins."

"In starting horses to work, see that their clothes fit them and that their collars are kept clean. Watch their necks and shoulders, and wash them with salt and water every time the collars are removed."

DANES AMAZED AT BARBERRY IN U. S.

When Danish agriculturists visit the United States they are at a loss to understand why common barberry bushes are permitted to grow in such large numbers in the grain producing sections of this country. They know from bitter experience that the common barberry is the chief factor in the spread of black stem rust. In 1903 Denmark passed a barberry eradication law. Since then the bush has been cleaned up so thoroughly that black stem rust no longer does serious damage in that country. Dr. E. C. Stakman of University Farm, one of the leading authorities in the United States on grain rust, says the evidence of what happened in Denmark is absolutely conclusive. Denmark disposed of its rust problem by destroying the barberry. A beginning has been made in this country by the passage of eradication laws by several of the states, but it should be remembered that it is only a beginning—that, in fact, the stupendous job of wiping out the common barberry, lock, stock and barrel, has just got a good start. Every Minnesotan should help to give this foe of "the staff of life" a death blow.

HERE'S SEED LIST FOR THE GARDENER

While the old standard seeds for the garden cannot be improved upon, in the judgment of W. T. Tapley, horticulturist with the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota, the amateur gardener is advised to take a chance once a year at least by planting something he has not before planted. By so doing he can add a new interest to and gain new zest for the season's labor.

Mr. Tapley says the following varieties are of proved value and should form the bulk of the seed order: **Wax beans**, Wardwell, Pencil Pod; **green beans**, Bountiful, Refugee; **beets**, Crosby's Egyptian, Detroit Dark Red; **cabbage**, Wakefield and Copenhagen for early and All Seasons for late; **carrots**, Chantenay; **celery**, Self Blanching, Winter Queen; **sweet corn**, Golden Bantam, Stowell's Evergreen; **lettuce**, leaf, Grand Rapids; head, Big Boston; **onion**, Globe; **parsnip**, Guernsey; **peas**, Alaska, Marvel, Telephone; **peppers**, Ruby King; **radish**, French Breakfast, Scarlet Globe, White Icicle; **squash**, Hubbard, Delicious, Table Queen, Crookneck; **tomatoes**, Earliana, Bonney Best.

As the average town and city gardener is generally limited as to garden space and may not have as good soil to work with as the professional gardener, Mr. Tapley believes that by using only high quality seed and choosing well adapted varieties he can eliminate at least one of the handicaps to success.

EWES AND LAMBS NEED GOOD CARE

"Every flockmaster," says Philip A. Anderson, of University Farm, "should have some record of when his ewes were bred so he can provide for them previous to lambing. Ewes well up to lambing should be taken from the flock and placed in warmer quarters if the weather is still cold. If this is impossible, ewes should be penned off by the use of 4x6 hurdles. Ewes about to lamb will separate themselves from the main flock, refuse food and stand with head down."

"If conditions are right the ewe is best off when left alone, though the shepherd should be near at hand to lend assistance if needed to save the lamb."

"As soon as the lamb is dropped, do not be in too great haste to handle it or disturb the mother. Sometimes a weak lamb is dropped and needs help. Phlegm in the mouth and nostrils can often be dispelled by blowing into the nostrils. Rubbing over the region of the diaphragm vigorously with the hands often starts breathing. The old saying that the lamb that gets its first meal unassisted is half raised is more than true. The first half hour the lamb needs no food, but if it is then unable to get up and nurse, one should assist it to its first meal."

"Lambs dropped at night are sometimes found chilled in the morning. They should be taken to a warm place and put into pails of water heated to the temperature that the point of the elbow will endure. The water should be changed as it cools down, and the lamb kept in until it kicks around in good shape. Then dry off well and assist to first meal. Sometimes lambs seemingly dead are revived by this treatment."

SPRAY MIXTURES FOR APPLES, PLUMS

According to horticulturists at University Farm, the spray mixtures for apples and plums best suited to Minnesota conditions are made by adding five quarts of liquid commercial lime-sulphur and one and one-half pounds of powdered arsenate of lead to 50 gallons of water. The spraying, they say, should always be done under high pressure. Every part of the tree should be thoroughly covered, and above all, it is important to do the spraying at the proper time. Even the delay of only a few days will nullify much of the effectiveness of the work.

For apples the first spraying should be done when the first fruit buds show pink, the second, as soon as the petals drop from the flowers and before the calyx cup closes; the third, the last week of June or the first week of July; the fourth about July 20.

Plums should also be sprayed four times during the season; first, just before the blossoms open; second, when the plums are the size of small peas; third, about July 1, and fourth, when the fruit first starts to color.

If plant lice are noticed on apples, plums or plants in early spring, spray with nicotine sulphate and soap (one-half pint of 40 per cent nicotine sulphate and two to three pounds of soap to 50 gallons of water), as soon as discovered. If the lice are numerous when applying regular sprays, the nicotine sulphate may be added to the regular mixture, but it is more effective when used alone.

FARMERS BACK "U" PURE SEED WORK

E. R. Clark, pure seed specialist, reports that 110 representative farmers in 11 counties of northwestern Minnesota grew pureseed grains in cooperation with the Northwest Experiment Station at Crookston in 1920. Thirty-one farmers were furnished small amounts of Mindum (Minnesota No. 470) wheat, a high yielding variety of durum, which because of its resistance to rust damage and its adaptability to conditions has given excellent results in every section of the Red River valley. Nineteen growers made trials with barley, sowing the Oderbrucker, Manchuria, and Svanhals varieties, while 23 others sowed select strains of Swedish Select oats, namely, Minnesota Nos. 281 and 205 and the strain known as English Newmarket.

Interesting trials with Northwestern Dent corn were carried on by 23 co-operators, representing a wide range of soil and moisture conditions. The excellent silage-making qualities of this variety, says Mr. Clark, combined with earliness of maturity, are making it very popular with many growers, and excellent results were obtained last season, especially in Kittson and Red Lake counties.

More than three thousand bushels of Mindum wheat were produced by those reporting. A list of growers who have pure seed grains for sale is being compiled at the Northwest Station and will be mailed to interested persons upon request.

SIGNS FAVOR USUAL ACREAGE OF WHEAT

Andrew Boss, vice director of the Minnesota Experiment Station at University Farm, believes that northwest farmers should plant the usual acreage to wheat the coming spring. According to the best statistical data available the world is shorter of wheat and rye than of corn and the coarse grains.

"Under the circumstances," says Professor Boss, "it is wise for those on farms, where the soil and climate are favorable to wheat production, to put in the usual, or slightly more than the usual, acreage of that crop. Wheat promises the farmer as well or better than anything else at the present time. The acreage of spring wheat in the northwest should not be reduced."

"Corn should come next in preference under prevailing conditions. While it is cheap at the present time, the prices for hogs, if they can be maintained, are sufficient to warrant the growing of at least the normal acreage of corn for hog feeding purposes. With hogs selling at 7½ to 9 cents a pound, corn can be marketed through them at 70 to 90 cents a bushel. A corn and hog combination the coming year promises at least a fair reward for labor."

"The oat and barley acreage should probably not be increased. These grains can always be used to advantage for feed, but under present conditions they do not promise as large profits as wheat or corn. Now that clover seed is again reasonable in price, much land should be seeded to that crop for feed and fertilizing purposes. Land that is not well adapted to large production of grains can well be seeded to grass or hay-making purposes. While land in grass may not offer large cash returns, it does afford some cash returns and at the minimum expenditure for labor. If reasonably good prices for dairy products can be maintained, cows can profitably convert the grass into cash."

"Flax and fall rye are limited acreage crops. Both offer some opportunities for profit where the soil and climate are adapted to them. The flax acreage probably should not be increased and it is too late to increase the fall rye for this year's crop. The potato acreage should, if anything, be slightly reduced, though its failure in other places might make the crop unusually profitable here."

SEASON IS HERE FOR CLEANING SEED

It is high time to begin cleaning seed grain in preparation for planting time. Good seed grain, says L. B. Bassett of the farm management section at University Farm, possesses three qualities, weight, size and freedom from diseases and noxious weed seeds. Use of the fanning mill secures heavy weight seed by means of the wind blast, large seed by the screening process, and clean seed by means of a combination of the two.

Any fanning mill to do good work, says Mr. Bassett, must be run at normal and uniform speed. Irregular speed causes poor work. Speed is bound to vary to some extent according to the kind of grain cleaned, but in most cases better work will be done by maintaining normal speed and changing the wind or shake to meet the requirements for different kinds of work. It is important that the sieves be perfectly level from side to side. The slope of the sieves from front to rear depends on the kind of sieves used and the kind of work done. Wire sieves are more likely to bag in the center. This results in the center being overloaded.

With most mills the light weight seed must be blown out. This is done by dropping the grain through the wind blast which should be so set that it is of equal strength on each side of the mill. This is regulated by the wind blinds. The grain should be dropped through the blast in a steady uniform stream of equal thickness the full width of the sieve. If the grain is infested with wild oats or cockle or kinghead, it is sometimes a good plan to use large size screens and a stronger wind blast, running more of the grain through the screens and saving only a small proportion of the crop for seed. In this way it is often possible to get very clean seed. In case of trouble it is a good plan to correspond with the manufacturers of the mill.