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EDITOR'S COLUMN

EDITORS MEET IN SOUTH-LAND

The National Editorial association recently held its annual convention in the quaint old and also modern day city of St. Augustine, Fla. Will Wilke of Grey Eagle, Minn., president of the association, presided. The official correspondent of Editor and Publisher writes that much of the success of the convention was due to the efficient manner in which it was conducted by President Wilke. Resolutions were adopted calling for repeal of the zone postal law and opposing the proposed 44-hour printers' week. A new amendment to the constitution provides for the holding in the future of an annual business meeting apart from the convention. The election of officers resulted:

President, E. E. Brodie of the Oregon City, (Ore.) Enterprise; vice president, John C. Brimblecom, Newton, (Mass.) Graphic; secretary, George Schlosser, Wessington Springs (S. D.) Republican; treasurer, W. W. Aiken, of Franklin, Ind. Selection of the next convention city was left to the executive committee. H. C. Hotaling of Minnesota, executive secretary, is in favor of meeting in Yellowstone Park.

Dean Walter Williams of the school of journalism of the University of Missouri delivered an able and scholarly address on "International Window Breaking."

CALF-FEEDING IS A REAL PROBLEM

"It is well known to dairymen," says A. J. McGuire, dairy extensionist at University Farm, "that calves under six months old make little or no gain on pasture alone, however good the pasture may be. Their feeding is a real problem. For this reason dairymen try to have the calves come in the fall so they will be ready for pasture in the spring.

"Spring calves or calves born in late winter should be kept in the barn during the summer if they are to make proper growth. It is well to have a small pasture or yard in connection in which they can run a few hours a day. In hot weather, the night is the better time for them to be out of doors.

"For feed, skimmilk, mixed whole oats and corn half and half, and clover or alfalfa hay, are always satisfactory rations. When there is a shortage of skimmilk or clover or alfalfa hay, some oilmeal will greatly add to the ration.

"Calf scours are frequently caused in summer by unclean pails. Tin pails should be used and they should be washed every day and set out in the sun. Clean dry quarters, clean pails, skimmilk and grain in medium amount, fresh water, and a yard for exercise, make up the requirements for raising calves successfully."

RULES FOR USING RAG DOLL TESTER

The rag doll tester, which can be used to good advantage in testing seed corn for 1921, consists of a piece of cloth from 12 to 15 inches wide and of any convenient length—6 to 12 feet. "This should be ruled into squares at least two inches from each edge," says A. H. Larson, seed analyst at University Farm, "and the squares numbered. The samples from each ear of corn are placed on these squares and the whole carefully rolled up and tied in a bundle, especial care being taken that the seeds do not mix. The bundle is soaked in water a few minutes and then set on end in a pail or other vessel which is at least as deep as the width of the cloth. Then add one-half inch to one inch of water. The rolls must be inverted twice a day. The whole should be covered with a cloth so as to prevent too much evaporation. This is then put in a place with a temperature of 70 to 80 degrees. Too high temperature is as bad as too low. A germination count should be made after five or six days."

BLOSSOMING-TIME SPRAY HARD ON BEE

"For the sake of the bees," says Francis Jager, chief of the bee culture division at University Farm, "do not spray fruit trees while they are in full bloom."

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

April 15 to 22

Many annuals may be sown now and transplanted to permanent places when large enough.

Some of the large flowering zinnias and petunias are among the best of flowers for the home grounds.

Top work any apple or plum trees that need working now. Remember dormant cions must always be used for success.

If cosmos are to bloom in the garden use early flowering sorts. There is a fine double variety on the market now.

Sweet peas require rich, cool soil. It is often a good plan to sink a drain tile in the row so that water may be applied underneath the soil.

Larkspur, Shasta daisy, boltonia, gaillardia, coreopsis and Autumn daisy are all good garden perennials furnishing cut flowers as well as being ornamental in shrubberies and borders.

The Latham raspberry is highly recommended in the eastern states as well as at home. Plant a few dozen plants. It's worth while.

A good home garden will be an asset this year. It seems very likely that market gardens generally are going to be cut in acreage, which means vegetables will be higher in price this year.

Don't forget to spray. Wormy apples won't sell and they cost too much to feed the pigs. Either cut out the trees or spray.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

April 22 to 29

Set out shrubs and herbaceous plants as soon as possible now.

Iris can be set out now, if care is used not to disturb the flowering plants too much.

Set out overbearing strawberries now if you want the fruit on your table next fall. Use Progressive or Duluth.

Do not expose the roots of evergreens to the sun for even a minute. They should be planted on a still cloudy day for best results.

Peas, radish, lettuce, spinach, onions, carrots and beets may be planted as soon as the ground is ready.

Cultivate early. Get the plant roots deep into the ground before the hot dry weather of summer.

Hubbard squash lose about 20 per cent of their weight when kept in storage five months, according to experiments made by Prof. G. W. Hood of Nebraska.

Elm, hackberry or even nut trees and fruit trees are good to plant along highways. The objection to fruit and nut trees is that they may be broken down by overzealous collectors of fruit. This is not apt to happen if they are common on the highway.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

BARBERRY BABIES, EVEN, DANGEROUS

Removal of the original bushes of the common barberry is not by any means all of the warfare planned against this ally of black stem rust. Those in charge of the antibarberry campaign are sending word to every property owner who has had the bushes on his land removed to check up the former location of the pest for any sprouts which may be coming up. "This work should be done before the leaves appear," says L. W. Melander of University Farm, who is representing the government in the antibarberry campaign, "as the sprouts are very susceptible to rust and cause an early infection. Destruction of common barberry bushes is of no avail unless their former sites are checked thoroughly several times each year for sprouts. Indeed, it may be necessary to watch for sprouts for several years.

"The United States Department of Agriculture and the state university authorities ask the cooperation of every one in the eradication of a pest which causes millions of dollars of damage every year."

BEAT THE MOTH TO IT BY ACTING NOW

"Now is the time," says Mary L. Bull, extension specialist in home management with the university, "to brush and clean and sun heavy outside garments and put them in moth proof wrappings. Wash, mend and wrap mittens, mufflers, stockings, etc. Mark all packages before putting them away; it will save time and energy later on. Clean and rearrange bureau drawers and closets. Heavy bedding which is being laid aside and is not washable may be aired, brushed, sunned and packed away for the summer."

DOES THE COLLAR FIT THE HORSE

Now that the busy spring season is here, every farmer should make a careful examination of the supply of horse collars on hand and see to it that he has a good fitting collar for every horse he purposes to put to work. Sore shoulders and sore necks on farm horses are generally caused either by collars that do not fit or by hames that are not properly adjusted.

A collar that is too long will cause sore shoulder points and is likely also to cause sores on the top of the neck. A collar that is too wide or too narrow will also cause sores on different parts of the shoulder or on top of the neck, depending on the kind and amount of work the horse is doing. Then, again, a collar that is too short and tight may cause the condition known as "sweeny" of the shoulder.

Most farm horses are at least moderately fat in the spring. In this condition the muscles about the neck and shoulders will be full and plump and it will take a rather large collar to fit. The soft condition of the horses, however, coupled with the long days of hard work, causes them to shrink in flesh rapidly, and a collar that was a good fit at the beginning of the season may be entirely unsatisfactory three or four weeks later. In some cases the collar can be made to fit by using a sweat pad, while in others a new or different collar will be required. It is better, however, to have collars that fit than to use sweat pads.

A poorly fitting collar not only starts sores but also causes the horse to fret, thus greatly reducing his efficiency. A work horse wearing a properly fitting collar is about two-thirds harnessed.—W. H. Peters, animal husbandry division, University farm.

THESE THE DAYS TO GROOM TRACTOR

The forehanded farmer has been busy for some time preparing for the spring rush. Motive power on the farm is of first importance at this season. If horses are to be used, they should be put in the best possible condition. If the tractor is to be used, the farm operator should anticipate the needs so far as possible, whether it be for repairs or repair parts.

"See that the carbon is cleaned from the cylinders and the valves ground," says J. B. Torrance of the division of engineering at University Farm. "Look up the lubrication chart and directions with the idea of following directions. The ignition system is one of the important factors for successful operation, and the instruction books give definite information as to its care. The cooling system will be more dependable if it is flushed out thoroughly and refilled with clean soft water. All bolts and nuts should be kept tight.

"Now is the time to put all machinery in shape for service. Find out what repair parts are needed and get them immediately. Remember that many others will be ordering parts also and that implement men will be busy in keeping up with the orders. Order early and be sure to give all the information necessary so there will be no mistake in the filling."

FARMER INDORSES "U" ACCOUNT BOOK

The Farm Account Book is strongly indorsed by Almer Anderson of Route 3, Red Wing, who says that it makes the keeping of farm accounts a simple matter. "We farmers are grateful for this book," he writes in transmitting his order for two copies. In case this account book cannot be had from local banks or farm bureaus, farmers can order them of the Students' Book Store, University Farm, St. Paul. The charge is 25 cents each.

PREPARE TO PAINT. SAVE ON BUILDINGS

Do your painting early, is the advice of H. B. White of the engineering division, University Farm, and thus "get the jump" on dirt, flies and other insects that are detrimental to a first-class job of painting later on.

"The idea that paint is used only for appearance," says Mr. White, "is common in many localities. Paint improves the appearance of buildings and implements, but it is even more important that it be used to prevent deterioration. Scarcity of lumber and its relatively high price make it clear that the life of the buildings should be given more attention than when material and labor were less expensive.

"A farmer can often do his own painting. If rapid depreciation is to be prevented, it is essential that a building be given a coat of paint every three years, or two coats about every five years."

Story of Minnesota Wheat

NOTE TO EDITORS

What Minnesota is doing through its University Experiment Stations to maintain its standing as the greatest "bread state" of the nation is a fascinating story. That story is being told in a series of articles of about 400 words each in the Press News. The third installment appears below.

CROPPING SYSTEMS NEEDED FOR WHEAT

Important among factors of wheat production, which together determine to a large extent the yield per acre, is that of a good cropping system which will keep the land reasonably free from weeds and in good physical condition, and which will maintain productivity. Systems which accomplish these results in Minnesota usually are planned about as follows: (a) 1. grain, 2. hay, 3. cultivated crop; (b) 1. grain, 2. hay, 3. hay, 4. cultivated crop, 5. grain; or (c) 1. grain, 2. hay, 3. cultivated crop, 4. cultivated crop.

The cultivated crop or crops in the rotation give the opportunity to keep the land free from weeds. The hay crop aids in keeping the soil in good physical condition and, if it is clover, may aid in keeping up the supply of plant food. The grains provide feed and cash crops. Rotations such as these aid in keeping up the wheat yields, but more plant food is removed from the soil than is added, and in order to maintain or increase yields over a period of years, it is necessary either to plow down clover crops or apply manure.

On University Farm wheat in the four-year rotation, oats, hay, corn, wheat with eight tons manure per acre preceding corn, has given, during a 10-year period, 39 per cent increase over wheat grown continuously with manure applied at the same rate. The

5-year rotation gave approximately the same results. Wheat and oats alternated each year gave yields of wheat 16.7 per cent greater than where wheat was grown continuously. Manure was applied at the same rate in the two systems. Approximately the same increases were secured from the other crops grown in rotation over those grown continuously. The results show clearly that one crop should not be followed by another of the same kind.

One very important reason for the decrease in yield as a result of continuous cropping is that fungi which cause root rots, foot rots and stem rots are likely to accumulate in the soil. Even when clean seed is sown the crop may become diseased. One of the best methods for reducing losses from such diseases is a judicious rotation of crops. In general one crop should be followed by another one not closely related to it. For instance, it is better to alternate wheat with oats than with barley or rye, because some of the diseases which affect wheat also affect rye and barley, but do not affect oats.

However, the results of rotation may be affected by seasonal or local conditions. While good results usually are obtained by growing wheat after corn, the wheat scab parasite also may cause root and stalk rots of corn, especially in the southern part of the state. Wheat following corn, therefore, may be more severely injured by scab, in seasons when the disease is serious, than when wheat follows barley, oats, rye or even wheat. However, it would be unsafe to say that it is a bad practice to grow wheat after corn, although this actually may be true in some seasons in some localities.

In general it is good practice to follow one crop by one not closely related to it, although this recommendation may have to be modified to suit local conditions.—A. C. Arny, in charge of farm crops, and E. C. Stakman, plant pathologist, University Farm.

SOME "DON'TS" FOR HOUSE-CLEANING

Don't take down the stoves too early.

Don't try to clean the entire house in one week.

Don't use water on waxed woodwork. Rub with a waxed cloth, then with a clean flannel cloth.

Don't wash all the curtains at one time and don't starch them. Use a little rice water or thin starch in the last rinse water. New curtains are not starched; why advertise that your curtains are old by starching them?

Don't beat rugs such as Brussels or Wilton on the right side. Lay them face down on the grass, beat and sweep on the wrong side. When replaced on the floors wipe the surface with a cloth wrung from hot salt water. This brightens and freshens the rug.—Mary L. Bull of Office of Extension Work with Women, University Farm.

FARMERS ADVISED TO BREED HORSES

Heavy draft horses are in greater demand and commanding higher prices than at any time in the last 20 years, according to the proprietor of a Boston trucking concern which maintains 100 horses and 28 auto trucks. In a letter received at University Farm he says: "For the short haul the horse has no competitor. We buy at any time and have paid as high as \$600 each, but are not getting as good horses as we would like to use. We believe the peak stage of motor truck sales and use has been reached. Farmers should be encouraged to breed better horses."

WHY NOT START A FAMILY BUDGET?

"Keeping accounts," says a Morrison county woman, "keeps me from buying bargains I do not need and thus saves me money."

"Just that one lecture at the bank the other day on the household budget," remarked a Duluth woman, "has helped me in a lot of ways."

The budget club is a feature of the organization work carried on by home demonstration agents representing the state university and the farm bureau. Why not start a family budget now?

EXTRA SPRAY FOR THE APPLE MAGGOT

To the three sprays urged for Minnesota orchards by horticulturists of University Farm, A. G. Ruggles, state entomologist, would add another when it becomes necessary to fight the apple maggot to a finish. The full spraying program as recommended is as follows: First, when the center bud of the flower cluster begins to show pink; second, just after the petals fall; third, about July 1, and fourth, for the special benefit of the maggot, soon after the middle of July.

SMOKING OF MEATS FOR SUMMER USE

After being in brine six to ten weeks, according to the weight of different pieces, hams, bacon and shoulders should be soaked in water of 60 to 80 degrees for three minutes for every day in cure, says P. A. Anderson of the animal husbandry division, University Farm. They should then be washed and scrubbed with a stiff, clean brush, and all loose ends trimmed off. This scrubbing is necessary in order to obtain desirable looking smoked meats. The pieces should drain until dry as it is bad practice to place wet or moist meats in smokehouse.

Start with a slow, cool smoke, because it has greater penetration. Smoke for thirty to forty hours, depending upon size of pieces, or until a nice amber color has been obtained. Pieces intended to be kept for some time should have more smoke or color.

Hickory, maple, birch, oak or corn cobs are best in order named for smoking meats, as they impart a better flavor and have greater keeping qualities.

Beef hams can be treated the same way as outlined for pork, but they should be smoked longer—40 to 50 hours.

HOW TO GET "U" FARM ACCOUNT BOOK

This testimonial has been received at University Farm from a Minnesota farmer:

"Will you please send me an Extension Division Farm Account Book? I have used one the last three years and like it very much."

The agricultural extension division of the university is unable to distribute free account books, but they can be obtained for 25 cents each by addressing the Students' Book Store, University Farm, St. Paul. Occasionally, copies of the same book can be procured free of charge from local banks, proprietors of which have laid in a stock for their patrons.