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## EDITOR'S COLUMN

### LIFE'S BEST PRIZE

Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.—Roosevelt.

### Country Newspapers Real Pioneers

Most editors in rural Minnesota have their hearts in their work. They are the chief bulwarks of loyalty and progressivism in their districts. They are so interested in making their communities better places to live in, that they have little thought for self. In towns with a population of barely three hundred, you will find the country editor living on the most meager of incomes, but mingling with his flock, who may support his stand half-heatedly, with only smiles and good cheer. And no matter what happens, the chronicle of the town's events receives its ink baptism regularly every week. Minnesota should be thankful for its country newspapers. They are pioneers blazing the trail through the forest and across the prairie for better communities, more progressive farms and keener citizens.—Minneapolis Journal.

### Great Play Spell for Editors

The recent outing of the Northern Minnesota Editorial association, judging by reports which the editors have been making for their readers, more than met all expectations. There was not a dull moment for the visiting scribe. Duluth provided a banquet, and its business men left nothing undone to show the editors a good time.

Automobile trips were made through Carlton county to Cloquet and to the University's forestry station and the Jay Cooke park and game preserve and Chubb lake. Dinners were served and the regular speaking and business programs of the association presented among the pines. Later the big company was feted by the people of Hibbing, Chisholm, Virginia, Eveleth and other towns of the iron range. A Sunday excursion on the St. Louis river was also a feature.

Next summer's outing will be held in Itasca State Park.

### Smart Pastor Gets a Hearing

A progressive Kasson pastor is getting a good sized audience every Sunday by holding services on the lawns of members. When the meetings are appointed in the country, the town members get an outing without running away from the usual morning service. Newspaper advertising is another way for the pastor to hold and build up his congregations.

### House of McGowan Changes

An important change is announced in the management of the Monitor at Benson and the Press at Appleton. The Monitor is now under complete control of J. C. McGowan, other members of the firm of The McGowans retiring. A. E. McGowan has taken a newspaper position in St. Paul, while Gertrude McGowan and R. F. and M. J. McGowan will edit and publish the Press. Both these papers are splendid examples of what a country news paper ought to be.

### "Say Something Good"

Paraphrasing in a manner the saying, "Get acquainted with your neighbor, you may like him," the editor of the Lakefield Standard endorses the suggestion of a friend that, when at loss what to say about a neighbor, say something good on the theory that you may come nearer the truth than you think.

### Missing an Opportunity

The Journal-Chronicle of Owatonna reminds the Steele county farmer living on a main highway that he is missing an opportunity by not maintaining a stand for the sale of a portion of the more attractive and ready-to-eat products of his farm. The editor believes that this practice would not be injurious to merchants, and that it would be a factor in advertising this "as a land of plenty and of service."

## September 5-15 Seed Corn Selection Time Why Minn. Growers Should Observe It

Minnesota now grows about 3,000,000 acres of corn annually. This acreage yields about 100,000,000 bushels of corn. The crop is easily second in importance in the state. The average yield per acre is about 34 bushels. It could easily be 40 bushels, says Andrew Boss of the Minnesota experiment station, were a full stand secured on every farm. Poor stands are obtained on many farms because little attention is given to the selection and curing of seed. This carelessness results in a loss of 18 to 20 millions of bushels of corn annually. Saving seed corn is, therefore, one of the most im-

portant factors in securing a maximum crop of corn.

It has been repeatedly shown, Mr. Boss says, that seed corn germinates best and makes the strongest growth when it is well dried out before heavy freezing occurs. It should be allowed to mature on the stalk, but as soon as mature, it should be gathered and placed in a shed, outbuilding, or in the dwelling house. It is important that there be free circulation of air and that the corn be spread out thinly and frequently turned over. It will cure best on a good drying rack where no two ears touch each other. During

a wet cold fall it is often advisable to use a stove to more quickly dry the corn and to stimulate circulation of air.

The seed ears should be selected before killing frost from the most vigorous stalks in perfect stand hills, and only the very undesirable ears should be discarded. Seed corn time—September 5 to 15—is the latest period at which seed corn should be selected this year. Pick seed during that week or earlier, cure well and increase the yield 6 to 10 bushels an acre.

### ORCHARD AND GARDEN

August 15 to 22

Cut gladiolus flowers stalks when they first begin to open. Keep in a cool room in fresh water and they will last a week or more.

Few perennials are as satisfactory as the larkspurs and coreopsis. There are many beautiful colors in the larkspur group.

The Scandinavian countries are becoming good markets for American dried and canned fruits.

A California jury recently awarded a trucker \$4,000 damages against a California seed house for delivering \$48 worth of celery seed untrue to name.

An effort is being made by the American Association of Nurserymen to standardize nursery stock. This is a good move and should be worked out.

Many fruit and ornamental plants may be budded now to advantage. This is a useful and interesting way of propagating plants.

*Crataegus*, or thornapple, is one of the most satisfactory of native shrubs. It has beautiful white flowers in the spring and becomes a bright fruit in the autumn. It is one of the best trees to attract birds.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

### ORCHARD AND GARDEN

August 22 to 29

See that all vegetables put on the market are clean and as near uniform as possible.

A good melon patch interests all members of the family, and should be a part of every farm garden.

Draw some leaves up over cauliflower heads and tie them, if you expect to grow white cauliflower.

Keep the garden clear of weeds and well cultivated wherever possible. Cultivation is often worth more than watering.

Prune out dead wood from the raspberries as soon as they are through fruiting. Burn these prunings. Perhaps by so doing you will destroy many insects.

Blanch early celery with boards. Earth drawn over early celery is apt to cause decay. Earth probably gives a better flavor to late celery than other material.

Roses, and in fact most flowers, should be cut early in the morning for exhibition purposes. Cut them before sunrise and put immediately into water nearly up to the flowers.

Some flowers will last longer if the stems are cut under water every day. This does not allow the stem to fill with air, and the flower remains fresh longer.

*Latham Raspberry* (Minn. No. 4) has proven its superiority over other varieties again this season. More of these, as well as currants, gooseberries and strawberries, could well be grown in Minnesota.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

### HERE'S RATION FOR MAKING BROILERS

Young cockerels may be fattened, says Annabell Campbell of the office of extension work with women at University Farm, by placing them in a darkened room or an enclosed yard which is large enough to permit exercise. If the room is used, it should be quiet, well ventilated and semi-lighted. A good ration for feeding is three parts of cornmeal, two parts of low grade flour and one part middlings, measured by weight and mixed as needed with sour milk or buttermilk. Feed this regularly three times a day the first three days, making sure that the feed is all cleaned up in fifteen minutes. On the fourth day begin feeding four times a day and continue this practice for the rest of the fourteen days. The birds should increase one-third their original weight and when placed on the market as broilers they should weigh one and one-fourth to one and one-half pounds each.

### BARLEY VS CORN FOR FATTENING PIGS

Corn has long and justly, too, been considered the premier fattening grain for hogs, says N. K. Carnes of the animal husbandry division of the state college of agriculture. Corn is deficient in protein and ash, the growing and muscle building materials, but is rich in carbohydrates and fat. When it is supplemented by tankage, a food rich in protein and mineral matter, it becomes a superior feed for fattening hogs.

Barley can be grown in sections of Minnesota where corn will not mature, and in many instances has proven a profitable grain to feed, Mr. Carnes says, but as yet no individual or experiment station has been able to demonstrate that barley is fully equal to corn in a ration for fattening hogs. Barley is a carbonaceous feed, containing more protein and ash than corn, but where corn is supplemented with tankage, the increased protein advantage of the barley is overcome. Barley contains more fiber and is consequently less digestible and palatable than corn.

A feeding trial just completed at University Farm bears out the above statements. Two groups of 11 and 12 fall pigs respectively were self-fed, free choice from May 25 to July 5. Group I was self-fed shelled corn and tankage, and group II ground barley and tankage, with the following results:

	Group I	Group II
Initial cost per 100 pounds at University Farm	\$10.61	\$10.61
Initial cost per pig	13.22	13.23
Average initial weight per head (pounds)	124.6	124.7
Average final weight per head (pounds)	203.4	187.9
Average total gain per head (pounds)	78.8	63.2
Average daily gain per head (pounds)	1.87	1.50
Total feed consumed per head	261.36	256.70
Shelled corn (pounds)	261.36	256.70
Tankage (pounds)	38.29	46.53
Feed consumed for 100 pounds gain		
Shelled corn (pounds)	331.59	
Ground barley (pounds)		406.17
Tankage (pounds)	30.18	29.41
Total feed per 100 pounds gain (pounds)	369.88	452.70
Total feed cost per head	\$2.81	\$3.05
Selling price, South St. Paul	9.50	9.50
Selling price, University Farm	9.00	9.00
Average selling price per head	18.31	16.01
Return over feed per head	2.28	.63
Feed prices: Corn, 45 cents bu.; barley, 44 cents bu.; tankage, \$47.50 ton		

The pigs fed ground barley and tankage made smaller gains than those fed ground corn and tankage, and required 18.3 per cent more feed for 100 pounds of gain. All pigs from both lots sold at the same price, but the corn and tankage group made \$1.65 more profit per head than the barley and tankage group.

### PLOWING BELATED; ALL CROPS SUFFER

Early fall plowing is of great help in controlling such annual weeds as wild oats and mustard. Then, too, the plowing that is done early is sure to be done in the fall rather than be left until spring in case of an early freeze up. This year I observed one farmer who was late in planting his corn because most of the ground had to be spring plowed. He then had to plow flax land and was late in getting it planted. Because he was busy seeding flax, his corn did not receive proper attention and he was so late in completing corn cultivation that he lost about a third of the value of his clover hay, due to late cutting. Furthermore, the late planted corn was caught by dry weather; the net result will be a much smaller yield than early planted corn on neighboring farms. Likewise, the flax was caught by dry weather and was a near failure when it would have made a fair crop if planted earlier. This farmer, if his plowing had been done in the fall with the same help and horses, could have had his crops all planted in good season and would have had as good yields as any of his neighbors. Hereafter he doesn't intend to let anything interfere with getting his plowing done early in the fall.—W. L. Cavert, farm management demonstrator, University Farm.

### GLAZED STAGE BEST FOR CUTTING CORN

Maturity of the corn when cut affects both the quality and yield of silage. The corn crop gains rapidly in weight as the corn matures. All of the food elements increase in total amount. The dry matter especially increases rapidly. When left to mature fully, portions of the plant become woody and indigestible and the total amount of nutrient available is difficult to recover because of indigestibility. Practically the total yield will be obtained if the corn is cut just when the ears are nicely glazed over. At this stage corn is at the maximum of digestibility also. Therefore, so far as total yield and yield of digestible nutrient is concerned, it is best to cut just at the glazed stage.

Corn silage keeps best when there is sufficient moisture in the corn to make it pack well and to overcome heating due to chemical changes in the plant tissue. Corn cut when very green contains so much moisture that it prevents these chemical reactions taking place and results in a sour silage, though it usually keeps very well. Corn cut when mature or dead ripe contains so little moisture that it cannot be packed firmly enough to keep out the air and moldy spots are very likely to occur. Ripe corn can be used for silage by running water into the silo as the corn is being cut. Even when water is added, however, it is difficult to secure as good quality of silage as when the corn is cut somewhat green.

Corn cut at the glazed stage seems to have the advantage. It contains moisture enough to pack well and to prevent too high temperature in the curing process. All things considered the best silage so far as yield and quality are concerned, will usually be secured if the corn is cut when the ears are at the glazed stage.—Andrew Boss, vice director of Minnesota Experiment Station.

### COWS REPAY GOOD FEED AND CARE

"The average cow as milked in Minnesota," says Dr. C. H. Eckles, chief of the dairy division of the state college of agriculture, "yields her owner about 160 pounds of butterfat in a year. Why not work her a little harder? The cows already in use, if properly fed, would easily produce 200 pounds as an average. There is proof for this statement.

"The experimental farm at Grand Rapids several years ago bought a bunch of common cows to start a dairy herd. Most of them came from the stockyards, but when these common cows of no recognized breed were given good feed and care, but no better than cows should have, and that may be given on any good farm, these common cows averaged 196 pounds of fat in a year. They beat the average of the state 36 pounds, even though they were scrubs, because they had a chance to make good.

"Don't call your cows bad names because your cream check is small unless you are certain they are getting the right kind of feed and care. The small check is not their fault. Giving the cows a chance means first of all giving them plenty to eat. Raw material is necessary for making milk and it is a great mistake not to give the cow enough to make use of what ability to produce milk she may have. "The important things in feeding are to have a silo full of good silage or a root cellar stocked with mangels as a starter. Next comes good hay, either clover or alfalfa. Give the cow what she will eat of these roughages and grain in proportion to her milk yield, one pound to each four pounds, if a Holstein, and one to three if a Guernsey or Jersey. You have then done your part and if the cow does not make good look up the butcher's telephone number."

### DO YOUR CULLING EARLY AND OFTEN

Careful culling is essential to successful egg production. Birds which commence to molt and discontinue laying should be removed from the flock. Eat, can or market the birds which show pin feathers on the neck at this time. University Farm poultry specialists say that such birds will be of little account as layers. Good birds, well fed, do not molt until September, October, or November.

### BEST RUBBER IS MOST ECONOMICAL

Success in canning depends in no small measure on the rubbers used. Only those which pass the test should be used, say members of the staff of the office of extension work with women, University Farm. A good rubber should be 1-12 inch thick and elastic enough to stretch six inches or more and rebound when stretched. The rubber is designed to keep mold and bacteria out of the jar, so that the best rubber which can be obtained is the most economical.

## Story of Minnesota Wheat

### FARMERS SHOULD STUDY MARKETING

Minnesota normally produces and markets about 20 per cent of the spring wheat grown in the United States. Its two important markets have become the great spring wheat markets of the United States. Minneapolis is the largest flour milling center in the world. Duluth is a point of concentration and transfer of grain to lake steamers. Duluth retains about 5 per cent of the wheat that is shipped there, while Minneapolis grinds in its mills approximately 70 per cent of its receipts.

The movement of our wheat through marketing channels for export and domestic consumption gives rise to many complex problems. The producer comes into contact with the wheat market at his local elevator. Here his grain is graded and docked and the local price determined. Regardless of what system of grading is used, every producer of wheat for the market should know the grain grades thoroughly. Not only should he know the factors such as test weight, moisture content, foreign material, etc., which determine the grade, but he should likewise know what class his wheat will fall in, whether Dark Northern, Northern or Red Northern.

The price of wheat is very sensitive and unstable. It has often been said that prices are always lowest in the fall when the producer sells and highest in the spring when the dealers are unloading. This seasonal range in price should be studied to determine whether the spread between the high and low prices for the season is sufficient to pay the producer to hold his wheat for the high months. The 10-year average price (1903 to 1912) for No. 1 Northern wheat at Minneapolis, follows:

September	97.5	March	98.9





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