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EDITOR'S COLUMN

FARM INTERESTS FIRST

Above all else, the country newspaper, to my way of thinking, must reflect the majority interests of its readers, and in the country field—with few exceptions—those interests are agricultural.—Robert Welles Richie.

Smile a Real Asset

J. Ogden Armour is quoted as saying that he would give a million dollars to have Charles Schwab's smile. This prompts the editor of the Fairmont Sentinel to draw the conclusion that if a smile can be worth a million dollars to Schwab and a quarter of a million for Douglas Fairbanks and Wallace Reid, "it would be worth while developing this asset on your face."

Regularity of Make-up Best

The City Editor and Reporter believes that the editor who is constantly changing his make-up and shifting his departments is unwittingly giving offense to many of his readers. It believes that subscribers who follow certain widely read departments and features like to know where they are to be found without turning over every page of the paper. In other words, if the subscriber reads the editorials first, he likes to find them on the same page every day if the paper is a daily, or every week if it is printed weekly.

Langum's Death Regretted

The unexpected death of Samuel A. Langum, editor of the Preston Times, is regretted by his large number of acquaintances over the state. He had been prominent in state affairs and newspaper circles for more than 30 years. He had convictions and dared maintain them on any field. His death is a loss to the newspaper profession.

"Stay on the Farm"

The Rural Weekly believes that a more promising slogan than "Back to the Farm" is "Stay on the Farm." "To make such an appeal," it says, "to the ambition and enthusiasm of the younger generation that the best of them will want to 'stay put'—that is the hope of agriculture." And that, the Rural Weekly might have added, is just what the extension service men of the university and farm bureau are working for.

J. Adam Analyzes Situation

The following apparently characteristic comment is charged to J. Adam Bede, former congressman: "Another thing that is wrong with the world is that it is long on limousines and short on manure spreaders and wheelbarrows. Lots of people have been living up in the air and have had no parachutes to come down in, or they are coming down on second mortgages. There are 20,000,000 families in this country and only 7,000,000 homes. Last year there were 1,000,000 marriages and only 700,000 homes built, so that leaves the rest of the number to live in their limousines and at the movies."

Two Good Advertising Stunts

Willmar Republican-Gazette attaches hustled up two 7-column pages of advertisements in its last issue previous to the celebration of Community Thrift Day. The Isanti News issued an immense supplement of live advertising in advance of Dollar Day Bargains, which was appointed for Isanti on Saturday, Sept. 3.

Print Names

Every man and woman likes to see his name in the paper and the editor likes to print it. Some say they object to the publicity. But do they? The Atchison Globe tells of a young man who entered its office. "I was intensely shocked to read a notice of my engagement," he said. "I cannot tell you how shocked I was. I was positively chagrined. My fiancée was chagrined. We were all chagrined. How much for 50 copies of the paper."

National Subscription Week

The movement for a nation wide "Subscribe for your home town paper week" seems to be gathering momentum. The dates set are November 7 to 12. The purpose of the campaign is not alone to induce persons who may not be subscribers to the home paper to "sign up", but also for emphasizing the service which the 10,000 and more country weeklies, to say nothing of the small city dailies, are now giving community and national life.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

October 1 to 8

Potatoes should not be washed for exhibition purposes. Washing has a tendency to cause them to rot.

Now is a good time to find fruiting grape vines and bitter sweet for transplanting to the home grounds.

Plant tulips and crocus in the ground now and hyacinths, daffodils, etc., in pots for spring blooming.

Peonies and iris may still be set out to advantage. This is also a good time to set rhubarb in the garden.

Green tomatoes picked just before frost and laid on shelves in a moderately warm room will continue to ripen for some time.

Destroy all weeds on the place. One weed may scatter thousands of seed which soon produce plants.

More nursery stock of all kinds is being propagated in this country than ever before. Nurserymen are collecting seed of many native trees and shrubs for propagation purposes.

Muskmelons of fine quality and weighing from 20 to 25 pounds are grown near Montreal, Canada, by expert growers. Most of us are satisfied with smaller ones if they are of good quality. Many homes get along without any. Don't do it. Plant a few hills next spring.

Census figures show that in 10 years the number of apple trees in the country has decreased about 65,000,000. More homes need apple and plum trees and small fruit plantations.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

October 8 to 15

Everlasting flowers picked before frost and cured make fine winter bouquets for porches or often a living room.

Keep grass and rubbish away from apple and other tender bark trees if you want to discourage mice from girdling.

Celery may be set in boxes of sand or soil which just covers the roots, watered well and placed in a dark cool place for winter storage.

Squash and pumpkins should be placed on shelves in a dry warm room. Often the furnace room is a good place. Do not pile more than one layer deep.

The Boston fern is the best house fern to use. It stands the variations of temperature and the dust best of any.

Grapes and raspberries winter best if laid on the ground just before it freezes and when there is no frost in the cane. Cover with earth to the depth of about two inches.

Duluth, St. Paul and Minneapolis market growers had fine exhibits at the state fair this year. St. Paul won first place and Minneapolis second.

Take up a few hills of rhubarb before the ground freezes hard for winter forcing. Let it freeze out doors and then about Dec. first put in a box of earth or sand in a warm dark place. Hold back some for successive plantings.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm.

WHITE RECOMMENDS DRIVEWAY CORNCRIB

There is a large crop of corn this year and it should be carefully sheltered.

H. B. White of University Farm, in charge of farm building plans, believes that a driveway corncrib is a good building to erect at this time, as it will furnish storeroom for the corn and shelter for the farm wagon. Corn can be put in the crib to good advantage with a building of this kind, he says, as the load is under shelter as soon as it is driven into the building.

A crib with a capacity of 1,500 bushels is shown in plan No. 189, which has been prepared by the division of agricultural engineering at University Farm. Copies may be secured for ten cents from the division of publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

NEW RICHLAND BARS ALL SCRUB BULLS

The New Richland Cow Testing association, according to E. A. Hanson of University Farm, who is in charge of field work for such associations in Minnesota, has replaced all grade and scrub sires with purebred sires. One dairyman belonging to this association, Mr. Hanson says, has increased his yearly herd average production by 115 pounds of butterfat in four years. He was able to do this by weeding out the boarder or slacker cows, by substituting better stock and by putting into practice the improved systems of feeding and management taught by the testers and association leaders.

OFFICIAL TESTING GAINING GROUND

Distinct progress was made in official testing of Minnesota purebred dairy herds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1921, according to the annual report of William E. Peterson, of University Farm, superintendent.

The number of purebred breeders doing testing increased from 229 to 286, or 24.9 per cent. The number of seven-day tests made increased from 1,053 in 1920 to 1,449 in 1921, or 37.6 per cent, and the number of two-day tests increased from 6,207 in 1920 to 8,924 in 1921, or 43.7 per cent. The total number of tests made for the fiscal year ending with June, 1920, was 7,342; the total number ending with June, 1921, was 10,766. Of 286 breeders doing testing the year just closed, 232 were breeders of Holstein cows as against 182 in 1920.

The hot dry month of July, 1921, had its surprises, for the number of tests showed a decided increase over the number in July, 1920. The best gain was made in the yearly test list, which was 758 for July, 1920, and 899 for July, 1921.

U. FARM DIRECTIONS FOR CORNING BEEF

Directions for making corned beef have been summarized, upon request, by staff women of the division of home economics, Minnesota College of Agriculture, as follows:

1. Cool the carcass thoroughly, but do not allow it to freeze. Cut in pieces about five or six inches square. The cheaper cuts such as platt, rump, cross ribs, brisket, etc., are ordinarily used. Fat beef gives better results than too lean meat.

2. Weigh the cut meat carefully and allow eight pounds of salt to each 100 pounds of meat. Sprinkle a layer of salt a quarter inch thick in the bottom of the barrel. Pack in as closely as possible the cuts of meat, making a layer five or six inches thick. Then put on a layer of salt, following that with another layer of meat. Repeat until the meat and salt have all been packed into the barrel, care being used to reserve salt enough for a good layer over the top.

3. After the package has stood overnight add for every 100 pounds of meat, four pounds of sugar, two ounces of baking soda, and four ounces of saltpeter dissolved in a gallon of tepid water. Three gallons more of cold water should be enough to cover this quantity. In case more or less meat is to be corned, make the brine in the proportion given.

4. A loose board weighted down with a heavy stone or other weight should be put on the meat to hold it down under the brine.

5. In warm weather the brine may become slimy or rosy. If this happens make a new brine of eight pounds of salt, four pounds of sugar, two ounces of baking soda, and four ounces of saltpeter to four gallons of water. Pour off the old brine and wash the meat thoroughly. Add the new brine. If the meat is kept a long time the brine should be changed occasionally. The meat will usually be corned and ready for use in six weeks.

MODERN HEN HOUSE FOR EVERY FARM

Following the successful poultry culling campaign of August and September, the agricultural extension service of the university and the farm bureau will put on campaigns for the building of new poultry houses and the remodeling of old ones and for an egg-mash in the hopper of each and every house.

N. E. Chapman, University Farm poultry specialist, says these ideas have been presented at the culling schools, and have been given the unanimous approval of poultry keepers in attendance.

"I have never known such interest," he says, "in poultry house construction, and now is the time to push the campaign. Few farmers feed egg-mash to the laying flocks, although it is absolutely essential for high production. All poultry houses should have mash hoppers, which should contain at all times the essential feed ingredients for the highest egg production."

WHEN TO HARVEST, STORE ROOT CROPS

"Root crops are ready for digging and storing," says A. C. Army, in charge of farm crops at the Minnesota Experiment station, "as soon as the tops begin to turn brown. If this does not occur by the time severe frost may be expected, it is necessary to take them before they are entirely mature. Light frosts do not injure root crops.

"Twisting the tops off is usually better practice than cutting them off with knives, since they are left with less of the interior portion exposed to decay.

"The cooler the cellar in which the roots are stored so long as the temperature remains above freezing, the better the roots will keep. Sufficient ventilation without getting too cold is necessary to keep the roots in the best condition.

"For fall and early winter feeding the roots may be placed in piles and covered with straw and earth. With the approach of very cold weather, those that have not been used should be removed to cellars where they are of easy access during the winter."

POTATO SCAB AS AFFECTED BY SOIL

Treating potato seed with corrosive sublimate for the control of scab and rhizoctonia has been practiced for some time in leading potato growing sections. Occasionally there have been reports which seem to indicate that the treatment was ineffective against scab. Instances have been reported where treated seed planted on virgin soil showed 50 per cent scab in the crop produced. It was difficult to explain such results at first, but facts which are now at hand throw light on the situation.

"Potato scab is caused by a definite organism that lives as a parasite on the tubers," says R. C. Rose of University Farm, "and recent investigations have indicated that it occurs on some soils naturally, even though potatoes have never been grown on them. The scab organism grows rapidly under alkaline or neutral conditions, but is repressed by slight acidity. In other words, a limestone soil favors the scab organism in much the same way as it favors nodule bacteria of our legumes, and in such soils the scab organism is apt to occur naturally.

"To control scab on some of the naturally infected soils is of course a problem. Various methods have been used with some success to change certain soils from an alkaline to acid reaction. Sulphur, certain fertilizers and green manures have all given promising results in recent trials, but the benefits depend on how much lime the soil contains.

"On the other hand, this organism does not occur naturally in acid soils and when it is found it generally has been introduced with the seed. The testing of the soil for acidity will indicate to a certain extent what success might be expected in treating potato seed for scab. Directions for making soil tests can be obtained from the county agent or by writing to University Farm, St. Paul. Although seed treatment may not give the best results in controlling scab in certain localities, it should not be discontinued as it is very important in controlling rhizoctonia which sometimes reduces the stand and yield of the crop materially."

MOLE NOT SO BAD AS PAINTED

Branded by some gardeners as a pest, the mole, according to F. L. Washburn, zoologist with the university's department of agriculture, belongs to a group of animals which as a rule eat only insects and closely allied forms of life and rarely if ever touch vegetables.

"Occasionally," Mr. Washburn says, "moles have been known to gnaw bulbs, and I have seen a mole in captivity run its snout through a pea pod and eat every pea. Sometimes they uproot plants in flower beds. However, the bulk of their food is animal matter—earth worms and, more particularly, white grubs which often do an immense amount of damage to corn fields, strawberry beds and lawns.

"Moles can be caught by using spear traps on lawns on newly formed ridges. They can be poisoned by planting seed peas soaked in a sweet strychnine solution before planting. Such peas may also be planted along the row with others not poisoned. Very rarely can a mole be drowned by turning water from a hose into the burrow. Occasionally conditions are such that water will force them to the surface.

"Naphthalene crystals placed in the burrow are said to drive them away. A steel trap properly set in the main burrow, which is about 12 inches below the surface, is generally effective."

SHORT DAILY REST REAL LIFE SAVER

Lucy Cordiner, nutritionist of the office of extension work with women, University of Minnesota, approves the slogan, "Mother's Half Hour Every Day in Every Home." She believes that fatigue is a big factor in America's annual loss of more than 20,000 mothers.

"Mothers can lengthen their lives," she says, "increase their ability to meet daily annoyances, and prevent fatigue wrinkles by a daily rest of thirty minutes. The ideal method of resting is of course to undress and go to bed, but very few women feel that this is possible. The alternative is to find the easiest chair in the house, to place one's feet in another chair, and to lean back and relax, just as the men do. The short period will so refresh one that the remainder of the day's work will be done more easily and more rapidly and thus time will be saved instead of lost by the short breathing spell."

WHAT ANIMALS TO SELL AT THIS TIME

Cool days and nights warn livestock growers that the grazing season for the year is nearing an end. It is time plans for housing and feeding farm animals were made. Most farmers who are growers of livestock find they have a surplus of animals on hand. In many instances, the question of which to keep and which to sell will have to be answered. Because of the impossibility of accurately predicting future market demands and prices, no one is qualified to offer information as to how profitable the feeding of the various types of livestock may be the coming winter, or even to say that a loss may not be sustained. A few practices can be followed, however, that have proved profitable in the past and are pretty sure to prove profitable through the winter:

1. Do not attempt to winter more livestock than you can provide with comfortable, sanitary shelter.

2. Do not attempt to winter more stock than you can feed liberally on good wholesome feed.

3. Cattle and sheep that are to be marketed off grass should be sold as soon as the pasture begins to fail, for if held through the cold fall months on poor pasture, they will shrink a great deal, lose their bloom and sell for less money than if marketed now while they are fresh and sappy.

4. In all cases where breeding herds are being maintained, the question of which animals to be sold should be determined by a vigorous process of culling. Sell the older females that are showing signs of having passed their period of greatest usefulness as breeders. Also dispose of all young females that are of undesirable type.

5. A general rule pretty safe to follow in the marketing of hogs is to sell when they weigh on an average between 200 and 250 pounds.

6. Whether it will pay to fatten cattle, sheep or hogs the coming winter is a question that is hard to answer. The purchasing of thin cattle, sheep or hogs in an open market and shipping them out to a farm to be fattened through a short feeding period is a risky enterprise at any time, because high freight rates, shrinkage and other expenses make it necessary that a decided margin in selling price per pound over cost price be secured in order to allow of a profit. Whether or not this margin will be forthcoming this winter remains to be seen.

It will be sound practice, however, for the man who has cattle, sheep, or hogs now, and also has feeds raised on his own farm suitable for fattening, to market the feed by fattening the stock. The freight on a ton of feed when converted into pork, beef or mutton is just about one-third the amount required in shipping the original crop. The price of livestock is low, but the price of grain and hay is still lower, and where other costs in fattening are kept at a minimum, the chances favor increasing the value of the crops by feeding them.—W. H. Peters, acting chief of the division of animal husbandry, University of Minnesota.

HINTS FOR CURING HAMS AND BACON

While the old-fashioned hog killing days are beginning to be a thing of the past because of packer efficiency competition, the farmer during the winter months can profitably slaughter hogs and cure and smoke hams and bacon, using the brine cure, according to P. A. Anderson, assistant professor, and A. L. Harvey, instructor in the animal husbandry division of the University of Minnesota.

After trimming carefully the pieces intended for curing, the surfaces should be rubbed with salt and packed away for 24 hours, during which time the curing material is prepared.

The following materials should be used for every 100 pounds of meat: 8 to 10 pounds salt; 2 pounds cane or brown sugar; 2 ounces saltpeter; 4 gallons water. This mixture is boiled and the materials that rise to the surface are skimmed off. Cure for six or eight weeks and, after removing from brine, soak pieces in water for a few hours, after which the outside surfaces should be scrubbed with a stiff brush. Before being smoked, the pieces should be suspended and allowed to drain.

NOT TOO LATE TO CLEAN UP GARDENS

Many farmers have already begun to fight against next year's insects by raking up and burning all stalks and leaves and other debris which, left undisturbed, will furnish snug quarters for the pests during the winter. Also there is nothing like fire to wipe out or hold in check various plant diseases that may have secured lodgment the past season. "Cleaning up the vegetable garden and truck field is good business," says W. T. Tapley, horticulturist at University Farm. "Insects and diseases will always be with us so long as we leave old stumps and leaves around. Old weed patches around the edge of the fields should be mowed, raked and the weeds hauled off or burned."