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EDITOR'S COLUMN

"THE BEST FARM"

Aunt Ada's Axioms: Someone has said that a farm is a business with a home attached; but the best farms are homes with a business attached.

New Extension Service Paper

The first number of the Minnesota Extension Service News, a monthly, was issued the first of October from the Office of Publications at University Farm. It is designed for circulation among agricultural extension workers, farm bureau committeemen, teachers of agriculture and county commissioners.

Editors at Morris

Seventh district editors held their annual meeting at Morris Oct. 7 and 8, abandoning their office chairs for Morris chairs, as the editor of the Montevideo News put it. Commercial club members and the editors of the Tribune and Sun did the honors as hosts.

Morrison Prosper

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Morrison, formerly of the Journal at Mankato, are making a success of the Lake District Advocate in Minneapolis. First a six column folio, the Advocate was enlarged twice within a year to keep up with the growing business, and is now a seven column quarto with circulation around 10,000.

Good Advertising Work

C. H. Willson of the Advance Print Shop at Alden, Minn., reports selling the Seed Corn Time advertising page layout, originating in the Office of Publications, University Farm, for two papers in the space of two hours. "I also wish to say," he writes, "that I read every issue of the University Farm Press News and receive benefit from it."

High School Paper a Winner

The Rah Rah, published every other Wednesday by the senior class of the Two Harbors high school, with Donald Marshall and Cecil Rose as editors, has begun its third year. It has four pages, four columns to the page, filled with well written school stories, personals and short items, and editorial comment. The Rah Rah is a credit to all concerned.

Roosevelt on Thrift

Theodore Roosevelt believed in thrift and abhorred extravagance which, he said, rots character. He is quoted as saying that "the habit of saving money, while it stiffens the will, also brightens the energies. If you would be sure that you are beginning right, begin to save."

Print Shop Notes

Coughlin of the Waseca Herald and his good wife recently celebrated their silver wedding anniversary.

Hoteling of the Enterprise at Mapleton and field secretary of the national association, has reached his sixty-sixth milestone, but is going strong and should hold out many years yet.

The Arnesons are back in the swim, J. S. having bought the Tribune at Thief River Falls, and Oscar going to a paper at Pipestone.

The Star and Tribune of Waverly, now in the hands of Atwood & Hall, experienced newspaper makers, has been enlarged to a seven column quarto.

E. M. Lawless is no longer associated with D. W. Byrne in the publication of the Shakopee Tribune. Hope he remains in Minnesota.

HINT FOR HOMEMAKERS

One gallon of waterglass will make enough solution to preserve 50 or 60 dozen eggs. The solution is made up of one part waterglass to nine parts water. Boil the water and allow it to cool before adding the waterglass. The container should be either earthenware or spotlessly clean wooden pails and should have covers. Storage should be in a cool and well ventilated place.

WHY HAVE THIS "NIGHTMARE?"

Mites and lice have long been a nightmare to poultry raisers. There are effective methods of control, and instructions regarding them can be obtained from the college of agriculture, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

October 15 to 22

Keep house plants clean and free from dust. Water thoroughly when the plants need water rather than a little every day.

There is still time to plant bulbs in pots for spring flowers. Use hyacinths, daffodils or tulips. Tulips may still be planted out doors to advantage.

Almost any one can have grapes if they will be satisfied with Beta or Janesville varieties. Some better varieties may be grown in favorable places.

Hyacinths, daffodils and other bulbs should be set in a cool place until the roots are well formed when they may be brought into heat and forced as needed.

Greenhouse sanitation is becoming more and more important. We cannot be too careful not to allow the numerous insects and fungous diseases a chance to gain any foothold.

Better put a little good rich garden soil in the cellar or where it will not freeze. It will come in handy to start those early vegetables and flower seed in next spring.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

October 22 to 29

Straight garden or orchard rows give the field a better appearance and are easier to cultivate.

Hoe all grass and weeds away from the trunk of the tree. This destroys a winter home for mice.

Prune the grape vines as soon as the leaves drop. They should be laid down before the ground freezes.

Don't try to grow house plants in a very warm room with a dry atmosphere for it can't be done.

Some very fine specimens of aconite have been grown in some of the gardens about Lake Minnetonka this year.

Did you notice the high coloring of the Virginia Creeper this season? It is a splendid thing for autumn color on a brick or stone wall or when grown over an old tree or stump.

Bitter-sweet makes a fairly good hedge when carefully trained over a fence or wall. Its orange-colored fruit adds greatly to its attractiveness in autumn.

Is your road to town rough and hard to travel over? A split log or iron drag drawn over the road after each rain helps to give a good road and does not cost much.

Remember the winter meeting of the Horticultural Society in December. If you are interested in trees, fruits, flowers or vegetables it will pay you to attend.

This is the chrysanthemum season again. Visit the nearest greenhouse. It is worth while. Many of the pompon and some of the larger varieties can be grown in the house to advantage.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

COMING EVENTS TO BE REMEMBERED

Oct. 31-Nov. 4—University Farm—Conference of nutrition and health specialists in extension from 12 middle west states.

Nov. 8-10—New Orleans, La.—Agricultural colleges and experiment stations.

Nov. 14-15—University Farm—Ninth annual agricultural extension conference.

Nov. 16, 17, 18—University Farm—Home demonstration group conference.

Nov. 16, 17, 18—South St. Paul—Fourth annual Junior Livestock show.

Dec. 13-16—Armory, Minneapolis—Minnesota Crop Show, with Minnesota State Horticultural society, Minnesota Crop Improvement association, and Minnesota Potato Growers association the cooperating organizations.

Jan. 2-7—University Farm—Farmers' and Homemakers' Week; annual meeting of livestock breeders.

TUBERCULOSIS RIFE IN FARM FLOCKS

Poultry culling schools have made it clear to teachers and pupils that tuberculosis is taking heavy toll among Minnesota flocks. In several instances, the disease was detected at culling demonstrations given by extension specialists of the university. There is always some tuberculosis, but field men say there is apparently more now than ever before. County agents have been directed to make a thorough survey of the situation for the purpose of determining the percentage of flocks affected by the disease and planning methods to counteract its attack.

MORE PURE SIRES AND MORE SILOS

Production records of Minnesota cow testing association herds suffered somewhat in August by reason of flies and hot weather. However, reports of testers to L. V. Wilson of University Farm, extension agent in dairying, are of a decidedly cheering nature. The Blooming Prairie tester reports the highest producing cow for the month, 82.9 pounds of butterfat. A Blue Earth association cow came next with 77.3 pounds, and a Kellogg-Weaver association cow was third with 73.4 pounds. Fourth place was won by a Faribault association dairy queen, 70.3 pounds.

The Northfield association showed up strong, 16 of its cows averaging 40 pounds or more of butterfat or 1,200 pounds of milk during the 30-day period. Thirteen cows in the Blooming Prairie association made a similar record.

Tyler association members obtained good results by giving extra feed to dairy animals on pasture. Four new silos were built by Kellogg-Weaver association men, two in the Chisago association, one in the Plainview association and one was finished and two started in the Long Prairie association.

Purchases of purebred sires were reported by the Chisago county, North Hennepin, Pope county and Long Prairie associations.

WESTERN CUTWORM ON ITS WAY EAST

Not to borrow unnecessary trouble or to sound undue alarm, but simply to report facts as they appear, it may be said that the pale western cutworm is working its way eastward from Montana and has been reported in western counties of both the Dakotas.

This pest works underground in gardens and fields and is the most difficult of all the cutworms to control. According to W. C. Cook, entomologist formerly of University Farm but now with the Montana agricultural college, the grain on large areas in Montana was destroyed this year by this new cutworm. Even now in infested districts, he writes, the moths which lay the eggs are present in countless numbers.

The pale western cutworm is of a glassy greenish color with two dark lines on its head. The moths are grayish in color and have a wing expanse of about one and one-half inches. Montana entomologists with the help of Mr. Cook are trying to devise effective control measures.

COSTS TOO MUCH TO BURN THE VINES

To rake up potato vines during harvest and either remove them or burn them in the open field can no more be justified than the burning of straw, in the opinion of M. J. Thompson, superintendent of the Northeast demonstration farm and experiment station at Duluth. The soils of northern Minnesota, he says, require abundant quantities of vegetable matter or barnyard manure to improve their texture and production and the vine growth, unless diseased, can well contribute to this end.

"Removing the vines makes an attractive field, but the cost is too high," he says. "If it is not convenient to plow them under as they lie, pile them in one place, make a compost heap of them, and, when rotted, distribute the resulting manure over the land."

"Time will also be well spent this season in salvaging the small potatoes and cull stock. Store them in a frost proof place and the first rainy day convert them into silage, using ordinary oil barrels. Chop the potatoes and add two per cent corn meal, weighting down the silage with rocks and not feeding for several weeks."

HERE'S CHANCE FOR FROG COLLECTORS

The division of entomology and economic zoology at University Farm is making a study of frogs of the state and is offering 50 cents each for a few specimens of bull frogs which are not common in the state in order to establish localities where they may be found. The university is also offering \$1 a dozen for a limited number of other kinds of frogs. A few have been received, but the division is still collecting and is asking the cooperation of boys in various localities who would like to earn a little spending money. Frogs gathered in a single season by boys of the Waseca community brought nearly \$10,000.

HOT DISH AT NOON AIDS SCHOLARSHIP

"The school lunch is essentially a problem of rural schools and as such is of interest to members of the farm bureau," says Lucy Cordiner, nutrition specialist of the University of Minnesota. "Those schools which serve a hot soup, stew or other simple dish which augments the lunch brought from home show a higher scholarship, better attendance because there is less illness, and closer cooperation between pupils and teacher. There are fewer cases of discipline and children are less nervous and are much happier."

"How did you like the half-frozen lunch you used to eat at school? Carried most of it home, didn't you? The children of today do the same."

"Children need three good meals daily. They need them more than do grown-ups. A cold noon lunch is not a proper meal on a winter day for children or adults. Research has shown that efficiency deteriorates if the cold lunch is long continued. Up-to-date manufacturers have provided lunch rooms where hot food may be purchased by their employees; many merchants have done the same. They say emphatically they would not return to the old order of things. Why should the rural one-room school not provide the best facilities for the children attending? Give every child a hot food every day at noon."

POULTRY MONEY STATUS EXPLAINED

R. P. Chase, state auditor, has advised N. E. Chapman, poultry specialist with the agricultural extension service of the university, that the appropriation made by the last legislature for the present fiscal year will be insufficient to reimburse all poultry associations to the full extent of the premiums paid by them. Mr. Chase writes:

"For the 1921 fiscal year, the legislature provided an appropriation of \$20,000. Ninety poultry associations are entitled to participate in the distribution of this amount, and it is apparent they can be reimbursed only in part and on a pro-rata share, all receiving less than 100 cents on the dollar. As a result, no association can be reimbursed until the last one has filed its claim, and the claim has been audited. On receipt of the last report, which will probably be about June 1, 1922, the department will make payments to all associations of their proportionate share of the \$20,000 state aid."

A standard premium list for all poultry associations receiving state aid was recommended by action of the Minnesota State Poultry Breeders at their semi-annual meeting at the state fair. A committee of three was appointed to work out the details.

ONLY FEW COUNTIES WITHOUT AN AGENT

Since July 1 of the present year every county in the state save Grant, Douglas and Swift has employed a county agent. Two agents are employed in each of three of the larger sized counties—St. Louis, Ottertail and Marshall. Clay, Dakota, Martin, Morrison, St. Louis and Waseca have home demonstration agents, and the cities of St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth have urban home demonstration agents. A full time county club leader is employed in Blue Earth county. County club leaders have also been employed part time, or during the summer, in Benton, Blue Earth, Faribault, Goodhue, Itasca, Jackson, Kanabec, Kittson, Lac qui Parle, Le Sueur, Marshall, McLeod, Morrison, Ottertail, Polk, Pine, Redwood, St. Louis, Todd, Stevens, Washington, Watonwan and Winona counties.

BOARDS INCREASE EXTENSION FUNDS

That Minnesota county commissioners strongly support county extension work is shown by the increased appropriation for the maintenance of agricultural and home demonstration agents over the state. With few exceptions these appropriations are made for the year beginning July 1. The appropriations for the current year average \$2,100 to the county, according to figures tabulated in the office of F. E. Balmer, state leader of county agents, at University Farm. The average appropriation for the year beginning July 1, 1920, was \$1,719, while the average for the year beginning July 1, 1919, was \$1,804.

RULES FOR FEEDING FOR WINTER EGGS

Properly balanced rations fed to the farm flock of mature pullets should spur production to an average of a dozen eggs for each pullet for each of the four winter months, November, December, January and February, according to N. E. Chapman, poultry specialist with the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota. Requiring about four ounces of feed daily, the laying hen should be given an ounce of scratch feed for breakfast and one for supper with two ounces of egg mash during the day.

Successful combinations of scratch feed and egg mash recommended by Mr. Chapman are two parts cracked corn, one part wheat and one part oats, or one part cracked corn, one part barley, one part wheat and one part oats for the scratch feed; and six parts cornmeal, four parts ground oats, four parts middlings, two parts bran, two parts alfalfa and seven parts meat scraps or equal parts by weight of cornmeal, bran, shorts, ground oats and meat scraps for the egg or dry mash.

"The egg mash is fed both dry in open hopper, or wet, being mixed with buttermilk or skim milk and fed at noon," he says. "The scratch feed is fed in deep litter as early in the morning as possible and at night an hour before sundown. The hen should also be given some green stuff such as cabbage, mangels, rutabagas, silage or sprouted oats. Grit, gravel, oyster shells or charcoal should be accessible. For drink, water, skim milk or buttermilk should be supplied. Meat scraps may be cut down one-half if sour milk or buttermilk is accessible."

HOW TO SELECT THE BREEDING RAM

Select a ram that possesses scale, but not to the extent that he is lacking in quality. A well developed ram as a rule transmits these characteristics to his offspring. He should be masculine in appearance, which is indicated by the carriage and boldness of head, short face, good width between the eyes, large open nostrils and an absence of feminine characters in general.

A ram should show good strength of back and depth of body, especially through the chest, with good width between fore legs and well sprung ribs. He should be closely made, that is, good depth, width of body, and short on legs.

The fleece should also be considered as to density, fineness and freedom from black fibres, with a skin that is pink in color, indicating that he is in good condition.

Purchase a purebred ram if possible, as blood will count and marked results will be seen in the quality of lambs. Breed character should be considered as it is very important, more especially in purebred flocks. Prices are relatively low and it pays to buy the best.—Phillip A. Anderson, animal husbandry division, University of Minnesota.

HOGGING-OFF CORN TEST UNDER WAY

Swine section men of the animal husbandry division at University Farm are carrying on a 30-day experiment to determine more explicitly the advantages of and the saving to be made by "hogging off" corn. Forty-five pigs weighing about 140 pounds on the average have been divided into three lots. The first lot of 15 is fed husked corn in the usual way, the second lot is husking its corn and feeding itself on an acre plot, while the third has the run of an acre of corn and rape grown together. All the pigs are given some tankage to supplement the regular feed. The prospective yield of corn on the plots was determined approximately by husking and weighing out the corn from a given number of rows. If the pigs husking their own corn can put on as much flesh as those fed by hand, a material saving will have been made in the labor bill. The experiment is being made with Durocs, Poland Chinas, Chester Whites and Hampshires in about equal numbers.

\$1,000 PRIZE FOR GOOD WINTER APPLE

"Minnesota needs a good winter apple," says R. S. Mackintosh, specialist in horticulture with the agricultural extension service of the state university, "and sooner or later it will be found. The way to get it is to plant seeds and to watch every seedling tree. The \$1,000 prize offered years ago for such an apple by the Minnesota State Horticultural society is waiting to be awarded."