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EDITOR'S COLUMN

A Word for the Correspondent

Instead of bemoaning the limitations of their news fields, correspondents of country papers should sound themselves to see if they are really working all the "pay dirt" within their territory. There never was a time when news from the farms and the firesides was in better demand than just now. All eyes are on the country districts, and if the correspondent has a story of farm life and farm development, an experiment or a result of interest he can find a ready market for it in a newspaper office.

The correspondent who habitually says, "there is no news," is looked on askance by editors. He should beware if he has a rival in his field who says, "there is always news." The chances are he will be scooped—foot, horse and dragons. Let the correspondent's motto be, "There is always news." If this is his attitude he will dig and delve until he has something worth while and is on the road to success.

The correspondent should study the paper which he serves and note what is printed and how it is edited. This will be his best guide as to what to send and how it should be prepared.

"The Old Apple Tree"

Dean W. C. Coffey of the state university's department of agriculture has painted a word picture of the old apple tree that appeals with much force to the editor of the Wassel Dispatch. In a recent issue, after quoting the dean, the editor said: "The best part of it is that apples may be grown in almost any part of Minnesota. Everybody knows they can be raised in the southern and central sections, but not everyone knows that there are apple and plum trees on the shore of Lake Bemidji; or that Bert Sabin, 18 miles north of Brainerd, has developed such splendid apple trees as to attract statewide attention of horticulturists. A few apple trees either in town or on the farm, surely are worth while."

Two Essentials for Code

Items of particular importance in any code of ethics for newspaper men are thus outlined by Prof. N. A. Crawford, head of the department of journalism and printing at the Kansas state agricultural college: "All news should be written accurately, objectively, and utterly without bias. The growing feeling of the public that newspapers are unreliable is due to the coloring of news. A code of ethics should also emphasize truth in editorial writing. Under no circumstances should the facts be misstated or stated with bias. Different persons will draw different conclusions from the facts, but the result should leave no room for doubt as to the facts themselves."

Increase Advertising Is Babson's Advice

Roger W. Babson, statistician and business authority, is advising American business men and manufacturers to renew and even increase their advertising. He says: "It takes no little courage to go counter to the popular current and spend money for advertising when immediate returns are smaller than usual, but I am convinced that the man who has that foresight and courage will gain advantage—a running start—that will carry him through the coming periods of improvement and prosperity. Take the aggregate course."

New Year, New Volumes

Beginning of new volumes concurrently with the new calendar year is reported by several Minnesota publishers and editors. The Register at Blue Earth started volume 35 with the first issue in 1922. J. M. Palmer, editor, has been in charge more than 21 years. The Bowlus Advance, C. O. Nelson, editor, has just entered upon its sixth year. The Advance is one of the few country papers in the land which do not maintain job printing plants.

Recognize the Verity of the Picture?

Here is a truism from a southern paper that will appeal to all owners and publishers of newspapers: "There is so much for everybody to do in a newspaper office that whenever a little profit appears on the balance sheet new names appear on the payroll. The work is never over in a newspaper office."

State Editors to Meet

The annual business meeting of the Minnesota State Editorial association will be held Feb. 16, 17, and 18 at the West hotel, Minneapolis. The first day will be devoted to registration, the second day to presentation of papers and the third to committee reports and election of officers.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

February 1 to 8

Why not plant a few gooseberry and currant bushes in the garden this year? They yield well and their fruit is appreciated.

Spraying is good crop insurance. Better get the equipment and materials now for use later.

Keep all poultry manure dry until next spring and then apply it to the garden and special plants.

Begin to read seed catalogs, make up and send off that list of vegetables and flower seeds. Early bought seed is usually the best. Better order some small fruits to set out this spring—everbearing strawberries for instance.

The liquid formed by soaking thoroughly rotted manure in water for a short time is an excellent fertilizer for most house plants.

Wash the foliage of house plants once in a while. Keep the plants clean and free from dust and insects.

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Geraniums and other soft wooded plants may be rooted by placing the cuttings in a glass of water in a warm place. A little charcoal in the water helps to keep it sweet. They should be set in the sun.

A small farm well tilled will give better returns than a large acreage poorly cared for. If more farmers would learn this lesson, which the gardener learned long ago, we would have better farms and the owner would likely have more ready money.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

February 8 to 15

Hotbeds and cold-frames give a chance to start vegetables earlier and gain on the weather and insects.

Fresh rhubarb from the cellar comes in handy now. It doesn't take many plants to furnish a good supply.

Pruning can be done in the orchard on warm days from now on. Burn all trimmings as promptly as possible.

Test all seeds that are intended for planting. This will give plenty of time to replace any poor ones before planting time.

Now is the time to plan for a wind-break about the farmstead or school-house.

Willows are good trees to plant along the banks of waterways to hold the soil. The fibrous roots work toward the water and the network holds the soil from washing.

If apple roots are available, piece-graft a few this winter. Next spring set them out in the garden and a couple of years' growth will give you good trees to start an orchard with.

Buy a few small shrubs and perennials this year and plant them in the garden. They increase rapidly and are ready to reset when you want them.

Garden seed and fruit plants should be ordered now. Dealers in these things are going to be very busy in March and April and the quicker orders are in, the better.

Have the insecticides been purchased for use this year? Now is the time to order them. It takes time for them to reach you by freight or express and we can't afford to be late in applying them.

A farm orchard of twenty-five or thirty apple and plum trees, well cared for, will furnish all the fruit the ordinary farm family can use. Twenty trees well cared for are better than 100 neglected.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED

FOR CROOKSTON SHOWS

With President L. D. Coffman of the University of Minnesota; Governor J. A. O. Preus; Dean W. C. Coffey of the university department of agriculture; W. I. Nolan, speaker of the lower house of the Minnesota legislature during its last session, and Mrs. T. G. Winter, president of the National Federation of Women's clubs, as the leading speakers, officials of the Red River valley winter shows and meetings are completing preparations for the twelfth annual show at Crookston, Feb. 6 to 10.

Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Frank O. Lowden, former governor of Illinois; Duncan Marshall, minister of agriculture for Alberta, Canada; and Sidney Anderson, Minnesota congressman, have also been invited to speak at the show.

The Red River valley winter shows are held in connection with the Northwest School of Agriculture's Farmers' and Women's meetings, and include farm crops, livestock, poultry and industrial exhibits, held in the three large buildings owned by the Red River Valley Livestock association. C. G. Selvig, superintendent of the Northwest School of Agriculture, and Lee R. Boyd, Crookston, are in charge.

VARSITY MEN FORSEE RUST PROOF GRAINS

In their warfare on the black stem rust of wheat, University of Minnesota scientists are doing much more than trying to arouse public sentiment for the eradication of the common barberry.

As a second string to their bow, the plant breeders and plant disease specialists of the university are carrying on experiments and investigations which point to the early development of rust resistant or highly mimune spring wheats. Dr. H. K. Hayes, of the plant breeding section at University Farm, stated in a recent address before a body of scientists at Winnipeg, that the day was coming when rust proof varieties of spring wheat would be developed by the university plant breeders for the use and advantage of spring wheat growers.

"The discovery of biologic forms of stem rust of wheat," says Dr. Hayes, "has placed the problem of breeding rust resistant wheats on a definite scientific basis. Further studies are necessary to determine the number and prevalence of these forms. When this is done, they can be used in definite attempts to build up wheat varieties which are resistant to all forms of wheat stem rust."

Dr. Hayes points out that many successful attempts have already been made by scientists to control plant diseases through plant breeding. For the various wilt diseases, he says, selection of resistant plants has frequently given very valuable results. The early work of Bolley in North Dakota, who produced wilt resistant flax by selection, is well known. By the selection of seed from resistant individual plants it has been found possible to obtain resistant races which will give good yields on wilt sick soil.

PAYS TO DELIVER PURE, SWEET CREAM

Creameries suffering losses due to poor grades of butter are urged by A. J. McGuire, dairy specialist with the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota, to put on an educational campaign among their patrons for improving the quality of their cream.

"Interest can be aroused in having all cream delivered at least twice a week and in improving the methods on the farms for greater care and cleanliness so that pure sweet cream will be delivered," he says. "The wide difference in price between good and poor butter results in serious losses under present conditions and can be prevented."

A continuous loss in the price of butter because of poor quality has led to the failure of creameries, Mr. McGuire asserts.

SEEDS RECOMMENDED FOR 1922 PLANTING

No farmer should grow flax without attempting to obtain a good supply of wilt resistant seed. Early planting and use of resistant seed will generally insure production, say farm crops men at University Farm.

Central and substation investigators of the state university recommend that flax growers use seed of North Dakota wilt resistant varieties or of new wilt resistant Minnesota selections. More flax ought to be grown in this country, and a good way to bring this about is to plant only the best seed.

Farm crop investigators of the university recommend Minnesota No. 2 rye for general planting in the state, and Rosen rye for planting in southern Minnesota. Varieties of barley recommended are: Manchuria (Minn. No. 184) and Minsturdi (Minn. No. 439), both six-rowed, and Svansota (Minn. No. 440), two-rowed.

WASHBURN SUGGESTS DRIVE ON SPARROWS

Prof. F. L. Washburn of the division of entomology and economic zoology, says that English sparrows have apparently never been as abundant on the campus and as troublesome as this winter.

It is thought that last year's mild winter had much to do with the abundance of the birds this season. They not only consume and defile grain and other feed, but are a menace in that they may carry disease from the farm to the veterinary yards to non-infected animals.

Poisoning seems to be the best measure to use against them although in a recent number of a poultry journal a homemade trap is described which caught several hundred a day. Unfortunately this special trap has to be sprung from some nearby building and therefore requires an attendant to be on the lookout for sparrows entering.

SMOKE HOUSE STORAGE PLACE FOR HAMS, BACON

With a cement floor and screen ventilators preventing the entrance of insects, the smoke house is a satisfactory storehouse for keeping hams and bacon on the farm for summer use, according to P. A. Anderson and A. L. Harvey of the animal husbandry division of the University of Minnesota. In general, they say, hams and bacon should be kept in a cool, dry, dark place of uniform temperature to protect from flies, mosquitoes, skippers, vermin and other insects. If impossible to keep insects out, borax should be dusted over the meat.

With no smoke house available, the meat should be thoroughly dried on the surface, wrapped in parchment paper or old newspaper, and muslin or flour sacks and stored. If the white-wash method is used, make a paste of lime and water with an addition of a little glue to make it stick, and paint the hams and bacon, wrapped in paper or muslin, with this solution and hang in a dark dry place, not allowing pieces to touch.

With the yellow wash method a solution made of three pounds of barium sulphate, 0.06 of a pound of glue, 0.08 of a pound of chrome yellow or lead chromate, and 0.40 of a pound of flour for every hundred pounds is used. Half fill a pail with water, and mix in flour, dissolving all lumps thoroughly. Dissolve the chrome in a quart of water in a separate vessel and add the solution of glue to the flour, bringing the whole to boil and adding the barium sulphate slowly with constant stirring. Make the wash one day before it is required. Stir frequently when used and apply with a brush.

Other methods of storage are: meat wrapped with coated melted paraffin hung in a cool dry place; hams and bacon wrapped in paper or muslin and buried in a grain bin, care being taken to prevent attacks by vermin; and hams and bacon packed in rock salt, either wrapped or unwrapped. With any of these methods mold will be found on the meat when removed from storage. This can easily be wiped off and trimmed when the meat is to be cooked.

INSTITUTE ANNUAL OFF PRESS; ORDER IT NOW

No. 34 of the Minnesota Farmers' Institute Annual is ready for circulation. It consists of about 150 pages, all carrying articles copiously illustrated concerning home and farm conveniences. As Director F. W. Peck says:

"The articles are intended to assist in increasing the leisure time of the housewife and perhaps incidentally of the farmer himself. The proverbial double eight-hour shift is no credit to the farm business and distinctly not to the partner who runs the home end of it. There should be an attempt to better organize the farm work, the house work, the selling of the product, the community interest and the social life if farming is to attract the right kind of people and prove permanently prosperous and desirable."

Write for a copy of this valuable booklet, enclosing six cents for postage. The Office of Publications at University Farm, St. Paul, will fill your order.

CLUB WORK SPURS CAUSE OF EDUCATION

The total enrollment in boys' and girls' club work in the United States in 1921, according to a recent report of the United States Department of Agriculture received at University Farm, was 216,479. Agricultural colleges offered 730 scholarships and conducted short courses for 3,383 boys and girls. Highly significant of the manner in which club work stimulates a desire for more instruction is the fact that more than 1,800 former club members enrolled in 1920 in the four-year course in agriculture or home economics at various agricultural colleges.

JUNIOR CLUB WORK REACHES NEW HEIGHT

Minnesotans have good reason to be proud of and encouraged by the results of boys' and girls' club work. A total of 18,730 youngsters were enrolled in club work last year, and 71 per cent finished their demonstrations and made their annual reports to T. A. Erickson, state leader, of University Farm, as against 65 per cent in 1920.

"There never has been more interest in this phase of extension work than during 1921," says Mr. Erickson, who gives large credit for the success to public school workers and farm bureau interests of the state. "Many more boys and girls ought to plan to get into the game this year."

HOW MUCH SHOULD A BROOD SOW EAT?

"The amount of feed a brood sow should eat depends first upon what kinds of feed she eats," says E. F. Ferrin, professor of animal husbandry at the University of Minnesota. "Corn alone is a very poor feed for sows, its only advantage being cheapness in price. Few good litters of pigs are produced on corn. Oats is a much better grain for brood sows than corn, and a mixture of about equal parts of oats and corn is better than either grain alone. Alfalfa or even clover hay will pay good returns when fed to brood sows."

"A sow older than two years, one that has completed her growth, usually needs to make a gain of about one half to three fourths of a pound daily through the winter to put her in good shape for farrowing. A gilt or yearling sow has to continue her growth besides producing a litter of pigs, and a pound a day gain is none too much if these young sows are thin at the beginning of the winter."

"It is not desirable to have brood sows fat when the pigs are born, but it is a good thing for them to have some reserve fat to draw upon while suckling pigs."

HOMES BRIGHTENED BY CLOTHING PROJECT

More than 6000 Minnesota families were able to profit last year from the clothing and textile service administered from the office of extension work with women at University Farm. The work was developed not only by clothing specialists and home demonstration agents of 11 counties and of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth, but more than 3600 women received portions of the clothing instruction from local women who have had the advantage of the work with the extension representatives.

The total saving to the women, according to the university's clothing specialist, Miss Eunice Ryan, was \$56,866 for the year 1921, assuming the clothing had been purchased at retail prices. Work of this character cannot, however, be measured fully and accurately in dollars and cents.

COOPERATIVE PLANTS PAY HIGHEST PRICES

Comparisons are generally odious to at least one side of of the house. A comparative statement of prices paid by the Litchfield cooperative creamery and local cream stations is no exception to the rule. In September the Litchfield creamery price was 48 cents a pound, says T. G. Stitts, Meeker county agent, in his report to University Farm, as compared to an average local station price of 36 cents. A patron who delivered 275 pounds of butterfat to the creamery during September received \$32.99 more than if the same cream had been delivered to a cream station. In like manner each patron of the local cream station might have had 25 cents extra on every 75 cents received for cream delivered at the local cream stations.

MORE COW TESTING ASSOCIATIONS FORMED

E. A. Hanson of University Farm, dairy extension specialist, reports the organization of new cow testing associations in Mower, Nicollet, Ottertail and Kanabec counties. Similar associations are about to be formed in Wabasha, Goodhue and Anoka counties. Wabasha county leads the state in the number of associations.

"The comparative ease with which new associations are being organized," says Mr. Hanson, "is further evidence that dairy farmers are doing well, and that records and improved feeding methods as brought out by testing are of material aid in increasing returns from dairy herds."

HOMEMAKERS LEARN TO CONSERVE TIME

Many homemakers over the state cooperated with home demonstration agents and university extension specialists last year in carrying on demonstrations and keeping records. In 81 communities, adopting projects, 211 home demonstrations were established. About 220 women made and are using fireless cookers, and 83 installed commercial cookers. Women carrying on home demonstrations in time saving by using a fireless cooker over a period of five months, reported a saving of 351 hours of time. A good homemade fireless cooker which will last for several years can be made, all complete, for \$4.50.