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EDITOR'S COLUMN

EDITORS INVITED TO U. FARM SHORT COURSE

The annual Editors' Short Course offered by the University of Minnesota will be held at University Farm, St. Paul, May 4, 5 and 6. The program will include practical studies in and discussion of—

- Country correspondence.
- The feature article.
- Recruiting for our profession.
- What people want in their newspaper.
- Efficient arrangement of the country print shop.
- Developing good advertisers among local merchants.

Among the specialists who will lead these discussions will be C. A. Baumgart, of the staff of Successful Farming, Des Moines; C. W. Kellogg, of the efficiency department of the American Type Founders company, Chicago; W. J. Keyes, in charge of printing classes of the Kelvin Technical High school, of Winnipeg, Man.; Edward Barr of The Farmer, St. Paul; C. A. Prosser, director of the Dunwoody Industrial Institute, Minneapolis; W. A. Frisbie, editor of the Minneapolis Daily News; Benjamin Wood, advertising manager of a mail order house, St. Paul; and N. T. Dowling, professor of law, University of Minnesota.

The Minneapolis Journal will again be host to the editors at a dinner on Thursday evening, May 4. Greetings will be extended by Journal and university men. The feature address of the evening will be given by Lee A. White, of the editorial staff of the Detroit, Mich., News.

An experience meeting following dinner will be held Friday evening, May 5. Songs and a playlet will be features of the evening.

The publicity bureau of the Minnesota State Fair again offers cash prizes amounting to \$50 for contests in the front-page makeup and for the best farm news department. A first prize of \$15 each and a second of \$10 each will be awarded in each contest. Editors can enter their papers in each contest, but must make their own selection and send only one copy for each contest.

This is going to be one of the best short courses the editors have ever had. Editors are invited to come to University Farm early and stay through the entire course. They will get inspiration from the regular sessions and rest and recreation from the diversions scheduled between sessions.

How M.D.'s Could Do More Good

Dr. Royal S. Copeland, health commissioner of New York city, believes that the public would be greatly benefited and many people cured that do not now know they even have a chance, if doctors would break through the crust of years and advertise in the newspapers of the land. "If the public were given more information about cancer, for instance, the disease would rarely reach the cancerous stage," Dr. Copeland said. "The medical profession through the ages has chosen to make itself a secret thing. The doctor has hidden his wisdom behind a veil of silence. An air of mystery has surrounded the profession, and we have developed a code of ethics. This, I believe, is the most antiquated, moss covered and germ laden institution in the world."

Making Your Paper Interesting

W. P. Kirkwood of the Office of Publications, University Farm, told an audience at the Cornell newspaper institute that the big problem of the publisher of a newspaper is to make his columns interesting. Mr. Kirkwood showed how first of all a newspaper must print the news, and that if it doesn't print the news it cannot be interesting.

A Virginia editor of long experience testifies that the big idea that brought him success is making a paper the people want. "Put the subscriber's interest first, and you will have also put the advertiser's interest first," he says. "A paper the people want is the only one worth anything as an advertising medium."

Change To Be Commended

The Sibley County Independent has changed its name to the Henderson Independent. This step is to be commended. It locates the paper more definitely and advertises the home town more certainly.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

April 1 to 8

Go over the orchard and look for mice or rabbit injuries. Many of these may be remedied by bridge grafting or painting the wounds.

The new lilacs are most satisfactory when grafted on privet or ash roots. Lilac roots grow too many suckers.

Clean up the yard, the street or the highway. Give the grass a chance to grow on the lawn. If there are weak places put on good soil and plenty of bluegrass and clover seed.

There is still time to order nursery stock if it is done at once. A few fruit trees and bushes for the garden and a few shrubs for the lawn will increase in value as soon as they are set.

Do not be in a hurry to remove the winter cover off plants. It is time enough to do this when the plants begin to grow slightly under the mulch.

Sweet peas may be planted just as soon as the ground warms up enough to work easily.

White onion sets are said to be of milder flavor than red or yellow. They should be planted as soon as the ground can be worked easily.

The state of Washington has shipped more boxed apples this year than all the sections combined which ship barrel apples. Is this due to a better system of advertising?—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

April 8 to 15

The Beta, alpha and Hungarian varieties of grapes need no winter protection although they often fruit better if some protection is given over winter.

Garden work may begin in earnest now if the frost is out and the ground warms up. Spinach, lettuce, radish, onions, peas, parsnips and other hardy vegetable seed may be sown as soon as one can work the soil easily.

New lawns may be seeded as soon as the ground can be put in shape. They should be made up of 80 per cent blue grass and about 10 per cent each of white clover and red top.

Set out hard wood cuttings as soon as the ground is warmed up and workable.

An iris show will be held in St. Paul early in June this year and a peony show in Minneapolis. Plan to exhibit and attend these shows.

Prune fall blooming shrubs in the spring and spring blooming shrubs after they have flowered.

Make sowings of peas, radish, lettuce and spinach at intervals of 10 days or two weeks up to the middle of June.

Do not set a new strawberry bed near the old one if there are any strawberry weevils or other insects in the old one.

Has the orchard been sprayed? It's pretty safe to say that clean fruit cannot be raised in Minnesota without having the trees sprayed.

Plants of any sort may be fine Easter gifts. Flowering bulbs of one's own raising have an individuality that is often appreciated.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

TIME SAVED BY USING HOT FORMALDEHYDE

Many Minnesota potato growers are interested in the hot formaldehyde method of treating potato seed because it saves time, is less poisonous than corrosive sublimate, does not corrode metals, and is effective for both scab and rhizoctonia.

The solution is made by mixing two pints of 40 per cent formaldehyde to 30 gallons of water. This is heated to a temperature between 118° F. to 122° F. The potatoes are dipped in the solution for two minutes and then dumped in a pile and covered with a canvas cover or sacks for one hour. They can then be dried or cut and planted immediately. Formaldehyde when used without heating will not control rhizoctonia and requires one and a half hours soaking for best results in control of scab.

Floyd Riggs of Bertha, Minn., tried the hot formaldehyde method last year and in a statement received at University Farm makes the following comment:

I treated 280 bushels of potatoes badly infested with scab in five hours. Twenty bushels were planted without treatment. The crop from the treated seed was only slightly infested, which resulted from diseased soil, while the crop from the untreated seed was so badly infested that I had a hard time to sell them. I used a large galvanized stock tank, making a trench under same for a fire place, and I also used a tank heater in the tank. I favor this method rather than corrosive sublimate for the reason that it does quicker work, is less poisonous, and does not injure germination. I am going to use the same treatment this year, only I shall use wire baskets for dipping instead of sacks in order to permit better circulation of the hot solution through the tubers when they are dipped.

"HATCH EARLY" SLOGAN UNDER AMENDMENT

Although "Hatch Early" is a good slogan, in a general way it fails to give much definite advice as to procedure and practice, declares A. C. Smith, head of the poultry division at University Farm. The time to hatch, he says, depends upon several conditions seldom specifically enumerated in articles that strongly advocate the practice.

The object in view, the breed or size of the fowls kept, the climate, the feed and care, all are factors that must be taken into consideration because it takes longer to rear large than small fowls. A good large Leghorn pullet will mature in five months if she has all the feed she wants and average range conditions. A pullet of the American or English breeds will need about a month longer. Count back then, the number of months from the middle of October and you have the time to hatch the chick when raised under favorable circumstances, Mr. Smith says.

The much touted early hatching does not raise the chick. Chicks must be fed well to grow well. A little grass, a few bugs, a stingy allowance of grain even with a superabundant supply of water and fresh air will not make a pullet of the middle weight or light weight breeds by Nov. 1, even though the former is hatched in April and the latter in May as they should be.

"Hatch early, feed liberally and house comfortably" would be a slogan that would more completely fill the bill, Mr. Smith believes.

CLEANUP AND REPAIR TIME NEAR AT HAND

Extension division men at University Farm suggest that concerted action be taken this spring for sprucing up the farms of the state.

Untidiness exerts a demoralizing influence. The farm buildings site can be made spick and span, without expense, by cleaning up the winter's accumulation of dirt and rubbish and by repairing fences, gates, walks and buildings. Time and money will be saved by going over the machinery and repairing broken or worn parts for the busy season. Flowers and even trees and shrubs can be planted at small expense. A little paint will do wonders in freshening and brightening.

Let's all get the cleanup spirit. It makes for a more valuable farm and a happier and better farm life.

WHITE SWEET CLOVER'S PLACE YET IN DOUBT

From seedlings of annual white, biennial white and yellow sweet clovers made without a nurse crop on April 26, 1921, on University Farm, hay was cut on July 28. The annual white plants began to blossom July 16, and were well in blossom when the hay was cut. At the same time the biennial plants showed no signs of buds. The annual white yielded slightly less hay than the biennial yellow and somewhat more than the biennial white. The stands of biennial white were not as good as those of the other two, although tested seed was used for all three and the seed was sown at the same rate per acre.

"What the place of annual white sweet clover will be on the farms in Minnesota cannot be predicted," says A. C. Army of University Farm. "At present with the price of seed anywhere from 75 cents to \$2 per bushel, it cannot be used profitably for forage production. When grown for seed production it should be planted in drill rows 24 inches apart at the rate of two to three pounds per acre and cultivated to keep free from weeds."

STANDARD TYPE BIRDS BEST FOR BREEDING

In selecting breeding stock for egg production choose birds that show signs of being good layers, as indicated by trap-nest records and those having egg-laying characteristics, such as deep bodies with good width between the pelvic bones and good depth between pelvic and keel bones. Select birds as near standard type as possible. For breeding, yearling or two-year old hens are preferred. Hatching eggs should not be kept more than 10 days.

N. E. Chapman, poultry specialist at University Farm, now gives the foregoing advice, advocates dry, warm, well ventilated quarters for the flock with plenty of scratching room and range as soon as the weather permits. To insure laying the breeders should be kept in good condition by proper feeding. A laying ration should consist of from 10 to 15 per cent meat scraps.

YIELDS INCREASED BY SOWING MIXTURES

Mixtures of early oats and barley and of wheat and oats over a five-year period at University Farm have given more pounds of grain to the acre than the same crops grown alone, says Prof. A. C. Army of the farm crops and management division of the university.

Early oats and six-row barley sown at the rate of 32 pounds of the former and 48 pounds of the latter per acre averaged 2,324 pounds, as compared with 2,241 pounds for barley and 1,983 for oats sown alone.

Marquis wheat and Victory oats sown together at the rate of 45 pounds of wheat and 32 pounds of oats per acre yielded at the rate of 2,056 pounds. Sown at the rate of 60 pounds of wheat and 32 pounds of oats the yield per acre of the mixture was 2,196 pounds. Wheat alone yielded 2,021 pounds and oats alone 2,011 pounds.

The crop from the wheat and oats mixture sown at 45 and 32 pounds per acre respectively consisted of 30 per cent wheat and 70 per cent oats. When the larger amount of wheat was included in the mixture, the percentages of the crop were 45 per cent wheat and 55 per cent oats.

"When grains are grown for feed on the farm, mixtures of about the proportions mentioned may well be considered in preference to growing either grain alone," says Professor Army. "Wheat grown in mixtures with oats is usually somewhat less severely affected by black stem rust than when grown alone and the crop of wheat and oats grown together is less apt to lodge than the oats grown alone."

HOLLOW TILE MAKES DRY FLOOR FOR PIGS

The agricultural engineering division at University Farm has been receiving inquiries concerning the construction of hog houses, especially as to the material to use for floors.

"The hog house floor is very important if the building is to be permanent and satisfactory," says Prof. H. B. White of the division. "Hogs desire a clean, warm dry and well bedded nest and this requires care in the choice and placing of the materials for the floor."

"Concrete makes a sanitary floor, but it is often cold and damp and not desirable for small pigs. A removable floor of wood for the nest to be used at farrowing time is a great improvement. Cork brick or creosoted blocks are also used for the floor of the nest."

"Hollow building tile laid on well drained gravel covered with about one inch of sand and with the joints between the tile filled with sand makes a dry, warm floor. In some cases an inch of concrete over the tile is preferred, as it makes a more easily cleaned surface, although not so dry."

LOSSES PREVENTED BY SEED TREATMENT

A good treatment for leaf blight in celery, according to plant disease specialists at University Farm, is to soak the seed for 30 minutes in warm water (about 100° F.), then for three hours in formaldehyde (one ounce, which is about one teaspoonful, in three quarts of water), then wash and dry. Or the seed may be soaked for 30 minutes in warm water and then for 30 minutes more in corrosive sublimate (one part in 1,000 parts of water), then wash and dry.

For angular leaf spot and anthracnose in cucumbers: Soak for five minutes in corrosive sublimate (one part in 1,000 parts of water), then wash for 15 minutes and dry. For leaf spot and fruit rot of egg plant: Seeds from healthy fruits should be soaked in corrosive sublimate (one part in 1,000 parts of water) for 10 minutes, wash in running water for 15 minutes and plant immediately.

Always remember that corrosive sublimate is a deadly poison and should be kept out of reach of children and irresponsible persons. Do not mix it in metal containers; it attacks the metal. Formaldehyde is irritating to the skin and especially to the nose and eyes, but not poisonous.

MILK FLOW BOOSTED BY RATION OF GRAIN

Twenty-one dairy herds in the Blue Earth County Cow Testing association averaged 7,120 pounds of milk and 285 pounds of butterfat per cow in 1920. Nineteen herds in the same association averaged 8,500 pounds of milk and 345 pounds of butterfat per cow in 1921. The percentage of gain in milk in 1921 over 1920 was 19.3; in butterfat, 21. The tester in charge in his annual report to University Farm says:

"I attribute this gain to better care and feeding. The cows were fed a grain ration the year round, thus keeping up production during the late summer months when it usually drops because of short pastures."

RAISING CALF WHEN WHOLE MILK IS SOLD

The milk of 45 out of every 100 cows kept in the United States is sold as whole milk. Owners of the herds where milk is marketed in this way have a serious problem in raising the necessary number of calves to maintain their herds. If no calves are raised and the farmer depends upon buying what he needs there is constant danger of disease and his herd seldom improves from year to year. When raising calves under these conditions some milk must be used, as there is no substitute for it.

Experiments in progress at the Minnesota Experiment Station show that the best plan so far worked out is to give the calves a good start with milk and then get them on grain and hay as soon as possible. The plan suggested is to feed milk in the usual way to the age of about 50 days, then if the calf is strong and vigorous gradually reduce the amount until none is fed after the calf is 60 to 65 days old.

Alfalfa or clover hay and a grain mixture of corn meal four parts, bran one part and oilmeal one part is kept before the calves. They will begin eating grain and hay when about a month old and will gradually increase the amount until at the time the milk feeding ceases at 60 to 65 days of age they are able to get along very nicely without milk.

Calves handled in this manner will be somewhat checked in growth for a short time after the milk is taken from the ration, but will be in as good condition as the calf raised on skim milk by the time they are six months of age. The total milk used need not exceed 400 pounds. The grain mixture mentioned serves the purpose just as well as more expensive commercial calf meals.—C. H. Eckles, chief of the dairy division, University of Minnesota.

DOCKING OF LAMBS IS AID TO MARKETING

Farmers who are engaged in the sheep industry often forget to dock and castrate their lambs. Livestock commission men and packers are staunch supporters of castration and docking of lambs for market purposes and pay more for animals which have received this attention.

"Castration of lambs is a simple operation and if performed at the proper time the lamb does not mind it and there is little risk attached," says Prof. Phil A. Anderson, animal husbandry man at University Farm. "The operation should be done when the lamb is ten days to two weeks old; older lambs can be unsexed but with more risk. Use any good disinfectant, having hands and knife clean. The lower one-third of the scrotum is removed and the testicles forced out. The spermatic cord should be drawn out with the fingers and cut off with a knife in a scraping manner in order to prevent excessive bleeding. After the operation is completed, apply a disinfectant. If blow-flies are abundant, apply a little clean pine tar."

"Lambs that have not been docked present a poor appearance when marketed, but the main reason for docking is that lambs on summer pasture often scour. Such conditions invite the blow-fly and maggots and often the lamb is lost."

DAIRY SPECIALISTS CHANGE REPORT PLAN

The form of the monthly news letter issued from the office of the dairy specialists at University Farm in the interest of Minnesota cow testing associations was changed with the January number in order to lessen its bulk and make it more direct and effective. It will continue to carry all constructive information bearing on the development of association work.

All testers are urged by the dairy specialists to use the new form of monthly report blank, in fact, associations will not have a complete report in the news letter as long as the old form is used. The new news letter reports the highest producing cow in each association and its record for butterfat, the highest producing herd in each association and its milk and fat production, and the average production of associations, showing the number of herds in each averaging at least 25 pounds of butterfat.

In January 28 herds in the Progressive Cow Testing association of New Richland averaged 25 pounds of butterfat or over. The Blue Earth association with 25 herds was second, South Hennepin association with 21 herds third, and the North Hennepin association with 20 herds fourth.