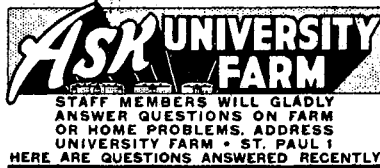


Dec. 1. 1950

University Farm News
University of Minnesota
University Farm
St. Paul 1 Minnesota
December 1 1950



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Q. How does one decide what the moisture content of his corn is?

A. Many local grain elevators and county AAA offices are equipped to make moisture determinations. The farmer must be careful in preparing his sample in order to get corn that is representative of the field. It is suggested that at least 20 ears be picked at random from the whole field and two rows of kernels be shelled from each ear with a screw driver. The shelled corn should be sealed at once in a pint fruit jar, which should be full or nearly full. -- William E. Miller, re-
search fellow in farm structures,

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Q. How can you avoid pressing woolen clothes often?

A. Give woolen clothes a rest of a few days between wearings. That allows the wool to spring back and wrinkles to fall out so less pressing is needed. Be sure woolen clothes hang straight on hangers and are not pressed tightly in a closet. Occasional brushing, inside and out, helps keep them in condition. Too much heat and steam from pressing will give wool a hard, shiny look. -- Extension clothing specialists,

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Q. What are the opportunities for supervisors of dairy herd improvement associations?

A. There are openings in many counties of the state. These have good promise of permanence and afford valuable experience to anyone interested in work closely associated with dairying. Anyone completing prescribed training and demonstrating ability to do the work required may expect to be placed in a position within a reasonable period of time. For more information, see your county agent or write to me. -- Ramer Leighton, extension dairyman.

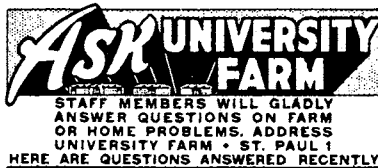
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Q. Are jars of canned fruits and vegetables spoiled if they freeze?

A. If the seals on the jars have not broken so that spoilage has entered, freezing will not harm your fruits and vegetables. -- Ina Rowe, extension nutritionist.

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Q. How can I get rid of aphids on my house plants?

A. Spray the plants as needed with nicotine sulfate (Black Leaf 40) at the rate of 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonfuls per gallon of water. This spray should destroy mites, aphids (plant lice) and mealy bugs. Or wash the plants off under the kitchen sink about once a week with a sprinkler-type nozzle. If you find aphids on the plants several days after spraying, wash off again. This practice also cleans the plants. -- L. C. Snyder, extension horticulturist.

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Q. In poultry breeding research, what is the purpose of developing inbred lines?

A. Inbreeding stabilizes a stock and concentrates the inheritance in such a way that we may weed out the bad things and maintain the good. The idea of developing an inbred line is simply the best device for doing this job. -- R. N. Shoffner, associate professor of poultry husbandry.

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Q. Should soap be used in the last rinse water for woollens?

A. No. Soap is alkaline and if soap deposits are left on the material the alkali will damage the fabric. Always rinse woollens until the water is clear and there is no trace of soap left. -- Extension clothing specialists.

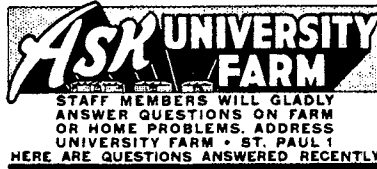
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Q. How can a person improve the water-holding capacity of a sandy soil?

A. It is possible to change the soil texture somewhat, or at least alter to some degree the behavior of any one texture. For example, in order to improve the water-holding capacity of a sandy soil, one should strive to get organic material into it--by using crop residues, green manures, legumes, farm manure. Any or all of them will prove beneficial. -- A. C. Caldwell, associate professor of soils.

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- Q. Would it help the lard surplus problem simply to kill the hog while it is in lean condition?
- A. Simply killing the hog when it is in lean condition is no answer to the lard problem. Thin hogs do have high proportions of lean to fat, but they do not have desirable carcasses. The texture of the meat is soft and washy. After cooking, particularly frying, the lean is stringy and not very desirable from the tenderness standpoint. -- E. F. Ferrin, chief, animal husbandry division.

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- Q. Why do cakes come out of the oven higher on one side than the other?
- A. There may be a number of reasons: the oven grate may not be level, the pan may be warped, the batter may have been spread unevenly in the pan or the oven may be hotter in one area than in the rest of it. Place cake pans as near the center of the oven as possible. If you must use two racks, stagger the pans to allow air to circulate. Pans should never touch each other. -- Ina Rowe, extension nutritionist.

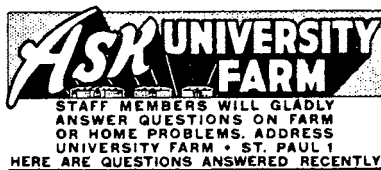
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- Q. What does vat-dyed mean?
- A. If a fabric is labeled "vat-dyed," it has been dyed with vat dyes, a class of dyes noted for their color-fastness. For that reason, when you find a cotton fabric, a piece of drapery or some other material marked "vat dyed," you can be fairly sure it is color-fast. -- Extension clothing specialists.

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- Q. How good is soybean hay for dairy cattle?
- A. It is likely to be quite rich in protein, but its value will depend on how well it is cured and on the number and maturity of the beans it contains. It may prove quite laxative if fed in large amounts but should prove quite satisfactory if fed with either mixed or grass hay. -- T. W. Gullickson, professor of dairy husbandry.

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Q. How can the bloom of poinsettias and other gift plants be prolonged?

A. At night set the plant in a cool room where the air is moist, Give it plenty of sunlight and keep it away from drafts. Be sure to water it sufficiently. If the leaves of the plant turn yellow and drop off, it probably means that the room is too warm and too dry. -- L. C. Snyder, extension horticulturist.

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Q. How are candlewax stains removed from a tablecloth?

A. Scrape candlewax off with a dull knife, then sponge with a grease solvent such as carbon tetrachloride and rub gently. When the solvent has dried, wash the cloth in soapy water and rinse it thoroughly. Before sponging with solvent, the stain may be placed between blotters and pressed with a warm iron, changing blotters as they absorb grease. -- Eves Whitfield, extension clothing specialist.

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Q. When should lime be applied to the soil?

A. If the soil is acid and needs lime, apply recommended rates of limestone before investing in fertilizer. This lime should be applied a year before seeding legumes. -- J. R. Duncan, extension soils specialist.

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Q. What is the significance of the term "back fat" on hog carcasses?

A. Back fat is the layer of clear fat covering the upper part of a hog just beneath the skin and outside any of the muscular tissue. The depth of back fat is the best single index of the degree of fattening of the hog. Naturally, with more than average back fat at any specific weight, the percentage of lean cuts is decreased. On a live hog of around 200 pounds, a desirable depth of back fat is from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The actual depth varies with the length of the hog, because it takes a little deeper back fat to make the carcass of a long hog firm and of good quality than is the case with the short hog. -- E. F. Ferrin, chief, animal husbandry division.

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