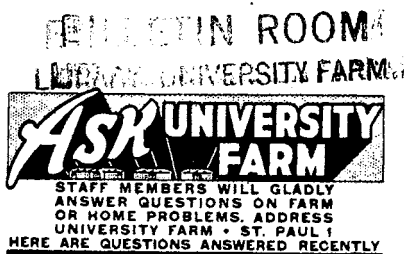


JAN. 31. 1951

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1951, Jan 31

University Farm News
University of Minnesota
University Farm
St. Paul 1 Minnesota
January 31 1951



Prepared and distributed by the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service.

For use week of February 5.

Q. What kind of a year will this be for the poultryman?

A. The efficient and well-equipped producer will probably do all right. Egg consumption has been a little higher this year than last, with the number of laying hens down about 4 per cent. Meat price prospects would indicate that egg demand should hold its own. -- Cora Cooke, extension poultry specialist.

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Q. Where can I get a list of recommended fruits for planting in Minnesota?

A. The January issue of "The Minnesota Horticulturist", page 10, has a list of fruits recommended for planting in Minnesota. If you don't have a copy, consult your county agent. -- L. C. Snyder, extension horticulturist.

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Q. Will there be fertilizer shortages this year?

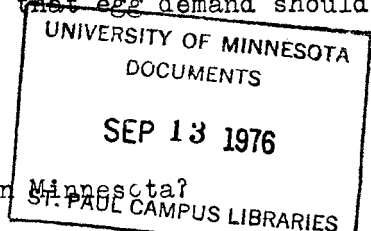
A. Shortages of nitrogen fertilizer and superphosphate seem probable. Ammonium nitrate is needed for munitions. Phosphoric acid, used in the manufacture of double or triple superphosphate, is the source of elemental phosphorus, used in incendiary bombs. Emergency demand for elemental phosphorus is high, and this means a lowered amount of high-analysis superphosphate. -- C. O. Rost, chief, division of soils.

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Q. Can home-rendered lard be used for deep fat frying?

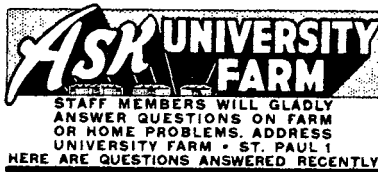
A. Yes, if home-rendered lard is not heated to too high a temperature. If a fat thermometer is used as a guide, home rendered lard is excellent for deep-fat frying. However, because it has a greater tendency to scorch than commercially rendered lard or some of the lard substitutes, it may not be possible to re-use it as many times. -- Extension nutritionists.

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Q. What are some of the varieties of small fruits recommended for Minnesota?

A. June-bearing strawberries - Premier, Dunlap, Arrowhead, Robinson; everbearing strawberries - Red Rich, Gem, Evermore (in western and northern part of state); red raspberries - Latham, Indian Summer, Chief (for north and west), Newburgh (where irrigation is possible); purple raspberries - Sodus; grapes - Red Amber, Blue Jay, Bluebell, Beta, Concord (for southern Minnesota), Worden (southern Minnesota); currants - Red Lake; gooseberry - Pixwell. Order your small fruit plants now so you'll get them in time for early spring planting. -- L. C. Snyder, extension horticulturist.

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Q. What is soil, and what is it made of?

A. The bulk of most soils is made up of fine particles of broken weathered rock and minerals. This is called the mineral part of the soil. The soil also contains organic matter, which consists of dead and decaying remains of plant roots, stems and leaves. It teems with living things, such as ants, bugs and worms, and millions of microscopic organisms such as bacteria, fungi, etc. Air and moisture are necessary, and they occupy the air spaces among the soil grains. -- P. R. McMiller, professor of soils.

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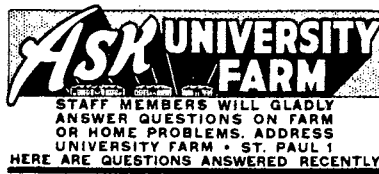
Q. What are some of the more inexpensive proteins for use in family meals?

A. Dry skim milk, liquid whole milk, cheese, including cottage cheese, dried beans and peas, peanuts and peanut butter. Depending upon the season, eggs may also be a bargain in protein foods. -- Jane Leichsenring, nutritionist.

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Q. Can weeds be controlled with one application of 2,4-D?

A. Many perennial weeds can be controlled with 2,4-D, but eradication is often difficult. Best results have been obtained by treating during the actively growing state--generally near the bud stage. One application of 2,4-D seldom gives eradication. Repeat treatments are necessary. Where long-time control, under cropping conditions, is necessary, the rate of application should be governed by the maximum amount that the crop will tolerate. -- R. F. Crim, extension agronomist,



Q. Why should milk be pasteurized before it is consumed?

A. Milk should be pasteurized before being consumed in order to destroy the organisms causing undulant fever and other disease-producing bacteria that may be present. More than half the cases of human brucellosis, or undulant fever, occur in persons who normally drink raw milk. Milk from infected cows often contains the positive organisms. -- J. C. Olson, associate professor, dairy division.

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Q. What germ or germs cause brucellosis?

A. There are three closely related germs that make up the genus Brucella. These are "Brucella abortus," most commonly causing the disease in cattle; "Brucella suis," most commonly causing the disease in swine; and "Brucella melitensis," the one most commonly causing the disease in goats. -- W. L. Boyd, chief, division of veterinary medicine.

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Q. How can I find out what nurseries are selling some of the new fruit varieties?

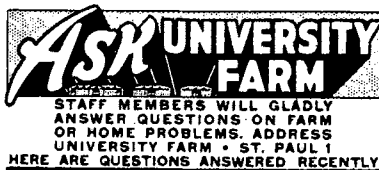
A. See your county agent. He has a list of nurseries which sell new as well as old fruit varieties. -- L. C. Snyder, extension horticulturist.

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Q. Is protein necessary to the body?

A. Protein is one of the essential nutrients. The solid portion of all the soft tissues of the body is largely made up of protein. Protein must be supplied in the diet in order that these tissues may grow in a child and be maintained in the adult. There is a constant wearing down of all tissues in the body and these must be restored by supplying some protein in the diet each day. -- Dr. Jane Leichsenring, nutritionist.

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Q. Why do my cakes and cookies brown unevenly?

A. It may be because the oven is overcrowded or because pans touch each other or touch oven walls. Your cookie sheet should fit into the oven with at least two inches of space free around all four sides. The same is true of layer cakes. Two layer cake tins to each oven rack is a good rule. -- Inez Hobart, extension nutritionist.

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Q. How soon can I prune my apple trees?

A. Late winter is a good time to prune apple trees, but don't overdo it. Young trees need just enough trimming to give them a good framework including only one leader or upright branch. On older trees, weak growth, water sprouts and all dead or broken branches should be removed. For badly neglected trees, pruning should be spread over two or three years. For further information get a copy of "The Home Fruit Planting," Extension Bulletin 255 from your county extension office. -- L. C. Snyder, extension horticulturist.

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Q. How should I go about starting my hog herd?

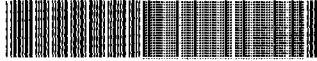
A. Choose a breed you like and then get the best hogs of that breed. A simple method of selection on the performance basis is to pick the largest pigs at a definite age. Weigh litters of pigs at 56 days of age and take the heaviest ones for breeding stock. This plan has been followed for 14 years in the Austin Area Sow Testing program with good results. -- E. F. Ferrin, chief, animal husbandry division.

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Q. How are new varieties of field crops developed and recommended?

A. Most of the new varieties result from co-operation between the plant breeders at the State Agricultural Experiment Stations and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Here in Minnesota a branch station conference is held each year at which time the varieties recommended for the state are considered. As far as field crops are concerned, the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station publishes Folder 22, "Improved Varieties of Farm Crops" and another publication, "Varietal Trials of Farm Crops." These publications are periodically revised and made available. -- Carl Borgeson, foundation seedstock project leader, Agronomy Division.

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