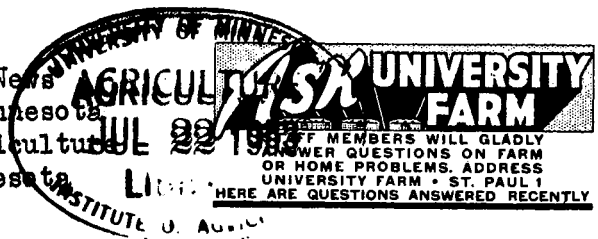


University Farm News
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Q. What is the advantage of applying a blossom-setting hormone spray to tomatoes?
A. Under poor pollination conditions, use of such a chemical will prevent the earliest formed blossoms from dropping. The fruit will set earlier and give earlier tomatoes and a greater yield. Follow the directions on the container as to how to dilute the compound. Spray the first and second flower clusters of each tomato plant as soon as two to five flowers are fully opened. Spray the diluted chemical right into and on the flower cluster, not on the leaves of the plant. One spraying per cluster is usually enough. A nasal atomizer can be used as a sprayer. -- R. E. Nylund, associate professor of horticulture

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Q. How can I control weeds in sugar beets with chemicals?
A. Where annual grasses, except wild oats, are known to be a problem, 5 to 7 pounds per acre of TCA just before the emergence of the beets is recommended. If weather makes it impossible to apply spray before emergence of the crop, it is best to wait 10 days. TCA at the same rate may then be used to control annual grasses, but this should be considered an emergency treatment only. -- R. S. Dunham, professor, agronomy.

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Q. Is it necessary to add salt in canning vegetables?
A. No. Vegetables will keep just as well canned without salt as with it. The salt is not a preservative. It can just as well be left out of the canning jar and used when the vegetable is reheated for serving. -- Ina Rowe, extension nutritionist

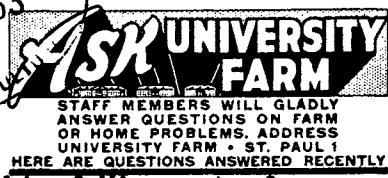
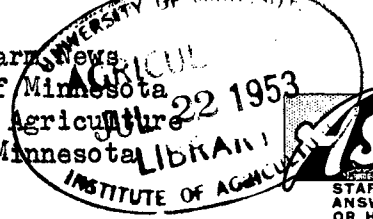
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Q. How shall I go about starting to use deep litter for my chickens?
A. House the birds by September 1. Build up the litter to a depth of 6 or 8 inches by November 1. Good insulation and ventilation and an allowance of 2½ to 3½ square feet of floor space per bird are necessary -- Cora Cooke, extension poultry specialist

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- Q. How much has short-term debt of Minnesota farmers grown in recent years?
- A. The short-term debt of Minnesota farmers has more than doubled since the end of World War II. On July 1, 1952, the short-term farm debt held by the principal lending agencies totaled 181 million dollars. This expansion of credit has resulted from rising production costs and increased expenditures on machinery, equipment and improvements for both farm and home. -- Reynold Dahl, instructor, Agricultural Economics.

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- Q. Will beans and corn keep well in the freezer without scalding?
- A. No. Vegetables lose flavor and color and take on an unpleasant, straw-like taste if they are not scalded before freezing. Scalding the proper length of time is also important. For accurate directions, consult Extension Folder 156, "Freezing Fruits and Vegetables". Get a copy from the county extension office or from Bulletin Room, University Farm, St. Paul 1. -- J. D. Winter, frozen foods laboratory

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- Q. Is it advisable to mulch tomato plants?
- A. It's a good idea to do so. A mulch of grass clippings, ground corncobs, sawdust or straw can be spread around the plants after mid-July. The mulch will help maintain a uniform supply of soil moisture and prevent blossom-end rot on the fruits. -- O. C. Turnquist, extension horticulturist

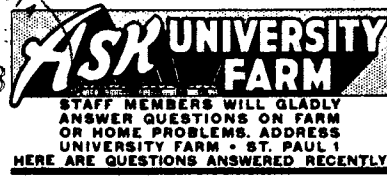
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- Q. What precautions can one take against prussic acid poisoning when grazing cattle on sudan grass?
- A. Do not turn cattle in to graze until the sudan grass is at least 12 inches high. Do not allow cattle to graze sudan grass for a few days after a dry spell which is followed by a rain--the young shoots are high in prussic acid content. Do not allow cattle to graze frosted sudan grass pasture. -- A. L. Harvey, professor, animal husbandry

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Q. When do you usually find signs of late blight in potatoes or tomatoes?

A. The name late blight seems to imply that it is found late in the season. For Minnesota that is not true. There is another common disease of potatoes in Minnesota called early blight, and actually late blight is often found before early blight. In the southern part of the state late blight may be found in late June or early July. In the Twin Cities area, however, it is usually found sometime late in July. In the Red River Valley it seldom appears much before August. --

H. David Thurston, research assistant, plant pathology

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Q. What cause most fatal accidents in the home?

A. Most of the home fatalities in the past have resulted from falls in the house. Other principal causes of fatal accidents in the home have been fire and explosions, poisoning and suffocation. Last year nearly 600 people were killed in home accidents in Minnesota. -- Glenn Prickett, extension safety specialist

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Q. What can I do to cauliflower plants to insure good-quality, white curd?

A. When the white curds in cauliflower get about 2 to 3 inches across, tie up the outer leaves over the heads to exclude light. This will help give you good-quality, white heads. -- O. C. Turnquist, extension horticulturist

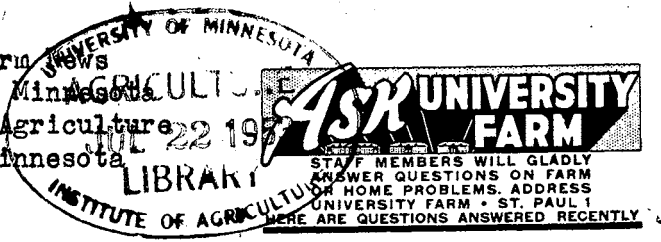
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Q. What unfavorable conditions are brought about in too acid a soil?

A. The acidity of the soil has a large influence on the availability of plant foods. Four of the major plant foods--nitrogen, phosphorus, magnesium and calcium--become less and less available to plants as the soil becomes progressively more acid. There is a close correlation between the nitrogen produced in the soil and the acidity. Some organisms in the soil which are responsible for breakdown of organic matter and liberation of nutrients are not so numerous, nor do they work so efficiently in acid soils as in basic or neutral soils. -- Alfred Caldwell, associate professor, soils

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Q. Should meat be wrapped or unwrapped in the refrigerator?

A. Uncooked meat, like a pork or beef roast, chops or ground meat, should be unwrapped as soon as it comes from the market. Simply put it on a plate in the refrigerator or in the meat keeper. Cover it lightly with a piece of waxed paper, allowing the air to circulate around it. Left-over meats, however, should be wrapped tightly in waxed paper or aluminum foil or put into closed containers.

-- Extension nutritionists

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Q. Is there danger of bloat from all pastures?

A. No, the legumes, such as alfalfa and the clovers, are by far the worst offenders. There is little need to worry when the herd is on grass pasture at any stage of growth. Also, a pasture made up of 50-50 of grass and legumes will usually be entirely safe. Of course, bloat may occur on almost any kind of feed under some conditions. -- T. W. Gullickson, professor, dairy husbandry

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Q. Can fruits be frozen without sugar?

A. Yes. Blueberries, cranberries and rhubarb are usually frozen without sugar. Strawberries, raspberries and peaches can be frozen without sugar for the benefit of people who cannot eat sugar, though they do not have as much flavor as those packed with sugar. To retain quality in strawberries, raspberries and peaches frozen without sugar, pack in water to which ascorbic acid has been added. Use one teaspoonful of ascorbic acid for each quart of water and pack the fruit with just enough water to cover. -- Shirley Trantanella, frozen foods laboratory

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Q. What can I do for maggots in my sheep?

A. Two products that are good for the removal of maggots are Smear 62, which has been in use for some time, and EQ-335, a new one. These act in removing the worms and have healing as well as repellent qualities. -- W. E. Morris, extension animal husbandman.

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