

Department of Information and
Agricultural Journalism
Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108
January 1978

MTC
The University of Minnesota, including
the Agricultural Extension Service,
is an equal opportunity educator
and employer.

SPECIAL SHORT COURSE SCHEDULE (February - July 1978)

Jan. 31-Feb. 2; Home Sewage Treatment Workshops, Jan. 31-Feb. 2, Rochester;
Feb. 7-9; Feb. 7-9, Arden Hills; Feb. 21-23, Brainerd; Feb. 28-Mar. 2,
Feb. 21-23; Mankato; Mar. 21-23, Bloomington; Mar. 28-30, Fergus Falls;
Feb. 28-Mar. 2; Apr. 4-6, Grand Rapids. For county sanitarians, zoning of-
Mar. 21-23; ficers, contractors, county planners, public health inspectors
Mar. 28-30; and building inspectors.*GW
April 4-6

January 31 Managing your Dairy Future, Holiday Inn South, Rochester.
February 7,14 Provide a 3-day workshop for the professional dairyman consider-
ing expansion replacing obsolete and inefficient facilities or
improving his profit potential by the wise use of his land,
labor, capital, and management resources.*GW

January 31, 1978 Consumer Housing Building your New Home, Jan. 31, Feb. 7,
February 1,2, 14, 21,28,Mar. 7, Edina; Feb. 1,8,15,22, Mar. 1,8, Brooklyn
6,7,8,9,13,14, Park; Feb. 2,9,16,23, Mar. 2,9, St. Cloud; Feb. 6,13,20,27,
15,16,20,21,22, Mar. 6,13, Shakopee; Feb. 9,16,23, Mar. 2,9,16, Eagan;
23,27,28 Feb. 13,27, Mar. 6,13,20,27, White Bear Lake; Feb. 14,21,28,
March 1,2,6,7, Mar. 7,14,21, Anoka; Feb. 16,23, Mar. 2,9,16,23, Elk River.
8,9,13,14,16, To provide consumers anticipating building or buying a house
20,21,23,27 with information that contributes to rational decision-making.
Emphasis is on single - family detached units, especially
new construction.*CC

February 1 Branch Station Field Days, Feb. 1, Lamberton.+

February 2 Sheep and Lamb Feeders Day, Morris.+

February 6-17 Lumbermen's Short Course, Kaufert Laboratory of Forest Products,
St. Paul Campus, To bring retail lumber personnel up-to-date
on new ideas and techniques; acquaint industry with the
University's teaching, research and facilities; and train person-
nel in the building supply field. For lumber and building
material industry personnel and people working with the lumber
industry in support activities.*EA

*For further information call Office of Special Program
CN--Curtis Norenberg 612-373-0725
RM--Richard Meronuck "
GW--Gerald Wagner "
EA--Eugene Anderson "
CC--Chere Coggins "

+For further information call the designated Exp. Station.

Page 2 - Special Short Course Schedule

- February 7,
15-16 Garden Store Operators, Feb. 7, Casa De Roma, Duluth, 610 E 4th St., Duluth; Feb. 15-16, Sheraton Inn--Northwest, Brooklyn Park. Updated horticultural information and current business trends and problems. For nurserymen, florists and store operators.*RM
- February 8-9 Foreign Animal Diseases Seminar, Animal Science, Vet Medicine Bldg., St. Paul Campus. A program to create an awareness of the probable introduction of devastating animal diseases into the domestic and wild animal populations of the United States.*GW
- February 8,14,
15,18,21,22 Quality Assurance Workshops: The Owner/Manager Course, Feb. 8,15,22, Albert Lea; Feb. 14, Minneapolis; Feb. 15, Alexandria; Feb. 18, Minneapolis; Feb. 21, St. Paul. The eight hour course emphasizes Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota Department of Health sanitation regulations and food microbiology.*CC
- February 11 Green Holiday, Sheraton Inn NW, Brooklyn Park. Focus on house plants, care, selection, new types and location.*RM
- February 16,23,
March 2,9,16,
23,28,
April 3,10,17,
24 1978 Consumer Housing Short Course--A Place to Live: Building, Buying or Remodeling your Home, Feb. 16,23, Mar.2,9,16, Grand Rapids, Feb. 23, Mar. 2,9,16,23, Fairmont; (dates to be announced), Marshall; Mar. 28, Apr. 3,10,17,24, Ortonville. Designed to help consumers desiring a housing change understand the basic advantages, processes and obligations sufficiently to decide whether to build a new home, buy an existing home or remodel a home.*CC
- February 17,18
April 7,8 Quality Assurance Workshops: Chef's Food Preparation Workers' Course, Feb. 17-18, Student Center, St. Paul Campus; April 7-8, (location to be announced). Directed at kitchen operations, the course includes discussion of Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota sanitation regulations and how to write quality assured, microbiologically safe, recipe procedures.*CC
- February 17-26 Red River Valley Winter Shows, NW Exp. Station, Crookston.+
- February 20,21,
27,28
March 6,7,13,
14,20,21 1978 Consumer Housing Short Course--A Place to Live: Buying an Older Home, Feb. 20,27, March 6,13,20, Minneapolis; Feb. 21, 28, March 7,14,21, St. Paul. Designed to help consumers planning to buy an older home both understand the basic process, decisions, and implications involved with buying an older home and improve their ability to evaluate basic advantages and disadvantages of older homes.*CC
- February 21 Shade Tree Short Course, Radisson Downtown Hotel, Minneapolis. Demonstrations and information on shade tree maintenance techniques. For arborists, nurserymen, park administrators, landscape maintenance superintendents and all individuals concerned with shade tree preservation.*RM
- February 28 Beef Cow-Calf Health Clinic, Edgewood Bluff, Lake Benton, MN. For cattlemen, veterinarians, veterinary technicians. An educational program on the health of the beef cow-calf herd.*GW

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- February 28-
March 1 Mosquito Control Pesticide Workshop, (location to be announced).
For commercial and non-commercial mosquito control workers.*EA
- February 28,
March 1,2,3,
6,7,14,15,16,
17,21,22,28,
29,30,31 Commercial Applicators Pesticide Workshops, Feb. 28-March 1,
Rochester; March 2-3, Mankato; March 6-7, St. Paul; March
14-15, Marshall; March 16-17, Morris; March 21-22, St. Cloud;
March 28-29, Grand Rapids; March 30-31, Crookston. For pesticide
dealers, custom applicators, educators and regulatory personnel.
To provide information on plant and animal pest problems and
pesticides and will enable applicators to qualify for or renew
their licenses.*EA
- February 28,
March 6,7,9,
13,14,16,20,
21,23,27,28,
30,
April 4 1978 Consumer Housing Short Course--A Place to Live: Remodeling
your Older Home, Feb. 28, March 7,14,21, Minneapolis; March 2,
9,16,30, South St. Paul; March 6,13,20,27, Faribault; March 7,
14, 21, 28, Stillwater; March 9,16,23,30, St. Paul; March 13,
20,27, April 4, Duluth. Designed to help consumers desiring
to remodel an older home understand the basic remodeling processes,
assess basic deficiencies in their dwelling, identify desired
improvements and begin to put these plans into action.*CC
- March 1,3,7,
15,17,22,29,
31 Municipal Tree Inspectors Workshop (replaces Dutch Elm Disease
and Oak Wilt Tree Inspector Short Course), March 1, Rochester;
March 3, Mankato; March 7, St. Paul; March 15, Marshall,
March 17, Morris; March 22, St. Cloud; March 29, Grand Rapids;
March 31, Crookston. Training and testing opportunities will
be provided so participants can become certified as a Minnesota
Tree Inspector.*EA
- March 7-8 Alfalfa Institute National Symposium, Radisson South Hotel,
Bloomington. A national symposium on the production and
utilization of alfalfa. Research results and producer expertise
will be presented.*RM
- March 8,9,15,
16 Fair Management Short Course, March 8, Elks Club, Owatonna;
March 9, Donovan's Center, Redwood Falls; March 15, Holiday Inn,
Detroit Lakes; March 16, Tobie's Restaurant, Hinckley. For
fair board members, fair officers, superintendents and
supervisors who have management responsibilities for county,
district and state fairs,*CN
- March 9 Marine Operators Conference, Marriott Inn, Bloomington. The
course is for the marine industry of Minnesota. The purpose
is to bring together the marine operators of the state to talk
about federal and state regulations and the business outlook.*RM
- March 8-9 Pest Control Operators Conference, Sheraton Inn Northwest,
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Current information on identification,
prevention and safe control of structural pests.*EA
- March 9-10 Minnesota Commercial Aerial Applicators Workshop, Arrowwood
Lodge, Alexandria. Designed for aerial pesticide dealers. To
provide information on plant and animal pest problems and
pesticides accreditation for retention of the pesticide
applicator's license.*RM

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- March 14 Dairy Day, Southern Exp. Station, Waseca.+
- March 17-18 Beekeepers Short Course, St. Paul Campus Student Center. For hobby beekeepers and all others interested in beekeeping.*EA
- March 19-20 Commercial Small Fruit Growers, Holiday Inn, Roseville. For commercial small fruit growers.*RM
- March 20-22 Liquefied Petroleum Gas, St. Paul Campus. A concentrated study program on the latest technical service, and commercial developments in liquefied petroleum gas equipment and appliances. For servicemen and technicians in the Minnesota gas industry.*CN
- March 20,21, 22,28,29 Forest Owners and Users Conference, March 20, St. Paul; March 21, Duluth; March 22, Grand Rapids; March 28, Bemidji; March 29, Rochester. The topic will be forest wildlife.*EA
- March 20,21,22 23,29,30,31 April 4,5,6,7 Township Officers Short Course, March 20, U of M Technical College, Waseca; March 21, Holiday Inn South, Rochester; March 22, Orchid Inn, Sleepy Eye; March 23, Southwest State Univ., Marshall; March 29, Moose Lodge, Brainerd; March 30, St. Johns Univ., Collegeville; March 31, Community College, Willmar; April 4, Holiday Inn, Fergus Falls; April 5, AVTI, Detroit Lakes; April 6, Auditorium, Thief River Falls; April 7, Rainbow Inn, Grand Rapids. To help officers understand their roles and responsibilities and provide them with technical knowledge and updated reference materials for the township officers handbook.*GW
- March 21 Minnesota Livestock Industry Day and Annual Meeting, Minnesota Livestock Breeder's Association, U of M Technical College, Waseca. Latest trends and issues in the livestock industry and their implications for the Minnesota Livestock Breeders.*CN
- March 22 Combined Turf and Athletic Turf Short Course, Sheraton Inn Northwest, Brooklyn Park. For personnel responsible for the upkeep of athletic fields. The course will cover sod management, fertilizer rates and recommended analysis, disease control, implications of the energy shortage on the turf industry, efficient fertilizer use, grass seed availability, minimum maintenance and quality turf.*RM
- March 28 Dairy Day, NW Exp. Station, Crookston.+
- April 1 Meats Up-Dating, Meat Science Lab, St. Paul Campus. For foods educators who desire to stay current on the latest topics concerning meat.*GW
- April 4 Land Use Workshop, Anoka County Activity Center. To enable secondary school teachers to develop land use planning materials for use in their classes.*EA

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- April 7 Food Day, 1978, McGuires Inn, St. Paul. For home economists, home economics educators and consumers interested in current topics and controversies related to food science and nutrition.*CC
- April 8 Annual Spring Clinic for Horsemen, Animal Science -- Veterinary Medicine Building, University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Educational programs on subjects of current interest to horsemen. For horsemen, owners, breeders, saddle club members, 4-H project members, stable owners and managers, and others.*GW
- April 8 Roadsides as a Natural Resource, Classroom Office Building, St. Paul Campus. To develop a roadside management plan for focusing on flora and fauna which will best serve the public interest.*EA
- April 13 Annual College of Home Economics Conference--"Changing Consumption Patterns: Scaling Up or Down?", McNeal Hall, St. Paul Campus. To facilitate dialogue among business leaders, public policy makers, community agency representatives and University faculty on the questions and issues implied by a changing resource base.*CC
- April 15 Upper Midwest Trout Symposium, Classroom Office Building, St. Paul Campus. A forum for concerned trout anglers and resource managers.*EA
- April 23-26 Minnesota FFA Convention and Leadership Conference, St. Paul Campus. To promote a learning experience for vocational agriculture students and FFA members.*CN
- April 25 Nature Photography Workshop, Wildflower Photography, Peters Hall, St. Paul Campus. For amateur photographers and naturalists interested in recording the natural world with a camera.*EA
- May 3 Minnesota Agriculture, Dakota County. A workshop to enable secondary school teachers to become acquainted with modern agricultural production.*EA
- May 19-21 Minnesota State Fire School, St. Paul Campus. For volunteer and paid fire department personnel, city officials and interested government and industry personnel who deal in fire safety, prevention, control and rescue and first aid work.*EA
- June 6 Gisela Konopka Retirement Day, Radisson Downtown Hotel, Minneapolis. A public symposium on current topics in youth development and a reception to honor Dr. Konopka on her retirement.*CC

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Immediate release

MARKETING OF PUREBRED
LIVESTOCK STUDIED

Prices received for purebred animals depend on many factors, according to a new University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station study.

Purebred beef prices are mainly influenced by the price of slaughter cattle and net farm income. Major factors affecting purebred dairy cattle prices include milk prices, price of commercial dairy cows and net farm income.

Slaughter hog prices and net farm income explained most of the variation in purebred swine prices.

Although other important factors determined historical prices of purebred animals, lack of relevant data prevented this evaluation, said Nasser A. Aulagi, agricultural economist at the University of Minnesota who conducted the study. "For example, certain tax provisions are said to have made it more attractive for outside investors to invest in purebred cattle, particularly during periods of economic boom," Aulagi said.

Future demand for purebred livestock will depend largely on developments in domestic demand for meat and other animal products, general inflationary trends, and foreign demand and trade.

Recent tax modifications make outside investments in purebred livestock somewhat less attractive. These changes should help reduce the severe bust and boom periods in the purebred business, the study says. Livestock exports have become an important income source for U.S. livestock producers and the market for U.S. breeding animals is expected to expand.

More detailed information is available in the publication "Marketing of Purebred Livestock in the U.S.," Station Bulletin 521. Free single copies are available from the Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108.

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Immediate release

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TESTS CAN PREDICT
CHANCES OF FUTURE
GRAIN SPOILAGE

Stored grain that's not properly cared for is subject to spoilage, whether it's in regular bins or makeshift structures. Insects, mites and storage molds are the usual causes.

When grain is loaded into bins, broken kernels and foreign material can accumulate in a column or cone beneath the loading spout. If this "spoutline" is not drawn off, spoilage often starts, University of Minnesota plant pathologists say.

In addition, moisture may transfer and accumulate in the cooler portions of the grain due to temperature differences between different portions of the bulk. When warm spring weather arrives, spoilage may occur in this moist grain and spread to much of the bulk before it's detected.

Usually this moisture accumulation and spoilage is in the top layers at the center of the bin. However, hot spots may develop anywhere in the bulk where moisture and temperature are high enough for molds to grow. The longer the grain is stored, the greater the risk that some spoilage will develop.

Modern laboratory tests now make it possible to evaluate the present condition of the grain and predict chances of future spoilage. The University of Minnesota's Department of Plant Pathology can make these tests and evaluations. A set of five representative samples from different areas of the bin is recommended.

Information on sampling procedures can be obtained from Richard A. Meronuck, extension plant pathologist, 405 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108, phone (612) 373-0725; or Clyde Christensen, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, 55108, phone (612) 373-1384.

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NEW PUBLICATION ON
FERTILIZER FOR WHEAT

"Fertilizer for Wheat in Minnesota's Red River Basin" is the title of a new publication from the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service.

There's no area in the world where crop yields are more dependent on soil management and seasonal climatic conditions than the Minnesota and North Dakota Red River Valley, the publication says. Fertilizer applications will generally increase wheat yields only when soils are managed carefully. Good surface drainage is a must.

The response of wheat to nitrogen fertilizer in the Red River Basin depends mainly on weather conditions and the cropping pattern before wheat seeding. Many of these soils are high in organic matter and will release considerable nitrogen if moisture and temperature conditions are favorable.

With warm spring temperatures and good rainfall distribution, some soils may furnish sufficient nitrogen for wheat yields of over 50 bushels per acre. However, in wet, cool seasons the wheat crop will depend more on applied fertilizer for plant growth.

Wheat growth and production in most years is benefited by drill row placed fertilizer, the publication says. A small quantity of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer is always recommended even though soil tests indicate that a soil is high in these nutrients.

Farmers in the Red River Basin are encouraged to take a soil test to determine the nitrogen supplying power of their soil and the needs for nitrogen fertilizer. More details are available in the publication, Extension Folder 254, available from county extension offices or the Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108.

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ATT: Extension Home Economics

Immediate release

WEDDING BELLS AHEAD?
KEEP CONTROL BY PLANNING

Weddings have a way of growing like Topsy. What begins as a small family wedding sometimes grows to the point where no one is pleased with the final arrangements.

This is avoidable says Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota. Make some basic decisions at the beginning and stick to them Mrs. Jordahl advises couples planning weddings.

Consider first your needs and wishes, those of both families, your religious backgrounds, community customs and personal values. A wedding needn't be costly, she stresses. "Money can be combined with other resources as we plan many events," she says. "The total cost will depend on your skill in using what is free or low cost with costly items or features."

Once the planning for the big day is in motion, Mrs. Jordahl reminds couples of the record changes that may be needed. These include:

- * payroll changes
- * any name changes for Social Security records
- * name or address changes for magazines, clubs, associations and creditors
- * changes in car registration, driver's license, bank accounts, life insurance, school and church records, health plans
- * changes in tax withholding forms.

Mrs. Jordahl suggests another look at securities either spouse owns for possible changes and ownership listings. Friends and relatives also will appreciate notification of your name and address change if it wasn't included in the wedding invitation or announcement.

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Immediate release

EARLY BLOOMING SUNFLOWERS
HAD MOST INSECT DAMAGE

Early blooming sunflowers suffered the most damage from the sunflower moth last year, according to University of Minnesota entomologist Dave Noetzel.

The sunflower moth is one of the more common and potentially destructive insects of the crop. It's the larvae, not the moth, that caused damage by feeding on the developing seeds in the head.

Later blooming fields (began blooming after July 8) had moth larvae and some webbing, but no significant damage. Heaviest infestations were in the southwest and south central districts of the state.

Noetzel found that one larva per plant reduced yields by about 15 pounds per acre. If you assume a price of eight cents per pound for seed and expect a \$2 return per \$1 invested in insect control, then the economic threshold would be an average of 13 larvae per plant.

The entomologist advises watching for the moths late in the evening in sunflowers during June and probably until July 15. If you see moths, then start checking for larvae in the earliest fields when blossoming starts. Be ready to treat if the number of worms found comes up to the economic threshold.

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Immediate Release

BEEF COW-CALF
DAYS SCHEDULED

A beef cow-calf day is scheduled for _____ at _____.
(date) (location)

Registration is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will conclude about 3:15 p.m. Topics to be discussed by University of Minnesota specialists include:

--Rumensin for the cow-calf herd? Animal scientists Jay Meiske and Richard Goodrich will discuss this product, which may be approved for breeding herds in the next year.

--Matching beef production and forage production systems, Ray Arthaud, extension animal scientist.

--Forage alternatives: cool season grasses, legumes, warm season grasses and emergency crops, by agronomists Neal Martin, Craig Sheaffer and Dave Rabas. This discussion will include information on lengthening the grazing season so that less stored feed is needed.

--Methods of pasture renovation, such as interseeding legumes in sod, by agronomists Martin, Rabas and Sheaffer.

--More profits from implanting calves, animal scientists Bob Jacobs and Ray Arthaud. "Less than 5 percent of our beef producers use implants on suckling calves, although they return \$8 to \$10 for each dollar invested," says Arthaud.

A total of 13 beef cow-calf days are scheduled throughout the state in January and February. Meetings are open to any interested individual regardless of race, creed, color, sex, handicap or national origin.

Roseau Legion Club, January 24
Northwest Experiment Station, Crookston, January 25
Bemidji Armory, January 26
Chalet, Jct. Hwy. 65 & 107, Braham, January 30
Northwoods Restaurant, Barnum, January 31
Rainbow Inn, Grand Rapids, February 1
Area Vo-Tech Institute, Staples, February 7
Area Vo-Tech School, Detroit Lakes, February 8
Edson Hall, University of Minnesota, Morris, February 9
Southwest State University, Marshall, February 20
Norman's Cafe, Amboy, February 22
Bertwood Golfview Supper Club, Rushford, February 23
4-H Building, Goodhue County Fairgrounds, Zumbrota, February 24

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FARMERS NEED TO BE PREPARED
FOR COLD WEATHER BLACK-OUTS

With cold weather in the forecast for the next few months, farmers need to be prepared for an unexpected power black-out, according to _____
(name)

(title)

He warns that an engine-driven alternator, either tractor-driven or a self-contained unit, needs to be "at ready" when the situation warrants and that all family members need to be able to put the stand-by power unit into quick operation.

If you don't already have such a unit, he suggests you seek counsel from your power supplier to determine just how much power you will need in that emergency. You may need less power than you think; you will only need to have enough to run the absolutely necessary equipment on the farm. For a residence you will need substantially less he adds. Purchase equipment that will adequately handle your emergency power needs.

If you already have emergency power equipment, _____ suggests that
(name)
you make sure it is in proper working condition right now--before you need it. Make sure that the unit is properly housed with shelter from snow in case of a blizzard. The shelter needs to be well ventilated and the exhaust run to the outside of the building. He also advises to check to see if the unit is properly equipped with a double throw transfer switch that will cut your farm operation off from your power supplier's lines. (This is important so that your unit will not be feeding current into supplier's lines when the lines are being repaired).

-more-

add 1--farmers need to be prepared

Proper maintenance is a must to keep the unit ready to go. Lubricate the engine and make sure the brushes are in good repair. Replace brushes when they become worn. And keep the engine clean and dry at all times, he adds.

He further suggests that the emergency power source be put into test operation at least once each month to make sure that it is in good working condition and also to keep family members familiar with its operation.

-rw-

CA, IA

(Source: Jack True, extension agricultural engineer, University of Minnesota).

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MOST TROUBLESOME
WEEDS IDENTIFIED
IN SURVEY

Green/yellow foxtail and common lambsquarters were the two most troublesome weeds in Minnesota corn and soybean fields, according to a University of Minnesota survey.

The survey of weed problems in Minnesota was conducted by Oliver Strand, U of M extension agronomist. In corn, green/yellow foxtail was estimated to be a problem on 43 percent of the state's corn acreage. It was followed by common lambsquarters, 28 percent; quackgrass, 24 percent; Canada thistle and giant foxtail, both 23 percent; and common cocklebur and pigweed, both 20 percent.

For soybeans, the percentage of problem acres for each weed was green/yellow foxtail, 39; common lambsquarters, 29; cocklebur, 28; giant foxtail, 22, and pigweed, 21.

For small grain crops, percentage of problem acres was green/yellow foxtail, 52; wild mustard, and wild oat, both 43; Canada thistle, 32; and common lambsquarters, 30.

For pastures and non-cropland, Canada thistle was a problem on 42 percent of the land, followed by common dandelion, 37; hoary alyssum, 26; perennial sowthistle, 23; and goldenrod, 21.

"This shows the tremendous need for good weed control practices," says Strand. For example, with 7.2 million acres of corn planted in 1976, the year the survey was started, over three million acres were estimated to have a problem with green/yellow foxtail.

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IN BRIEF. . . .

Rootworm Insecticides. You may wish to switch corn rootworm insecticides if you've used the same one for several years or if you had poor results last year. "There's been some concern over development of rootworm resistance to some insecticides, especially the carbamates Bux and Furadan," says John Lofgren, extension entomologist at the University of Minnesota. Some studies have been done at the University's Southern Experiment Station, Waseca, in a localized problem area where Furadan has given poor control after several years of continual use. "In 1977 other carbamates gave poor results along with Furadan. So whatever is involved seems to affect several of the carbamate compounds," Lofgren says. This may be resistance, a build up of soil microorganisms which break down the chemicals, or other factors.

* * * *

Grasshoppers. There will probably be no major grasshopper problems in 1978. But there could be some localized infestations that will need control, says John Lofgren, extension entomologist at the University of Minnesota. In the 1977 growing season, a few "hot spots" required control efforts. In most areas, rainfall later in the season caused enough vegetative growth in field margins to prevent much dispersion to the crops however, there was some damage to pastures and hay fields in the northern part of the state.

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ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

BUYING A SEWING MACHINE?
PRACTICE CONSUMER SKILLS

Right or wrong, the decision you make on a sewing machine purchase probably will be around to haunt you for years. Lois Goering, extension textiles and clothing specialist at the University of Minnesota, says consumers tend to keep sewing machines at least as long and often longer than other appliances.

If you're planning to buy a new machine soon, Mrs. Goering says you should first assess what you need in a machine. Do you do a lot of sewing? What types of fabrics will you sew with? Will you need heavy-duty capabilities to sew camping gear, draperies or upholstery? Or will the machine be used mainly for mending?

She suggests you also consider whether you want, and are willing to pay extra for decorative stitching. How much space do you have for a machine? Would a portable machine or a cabinet model make more sense?

Before you even start looking at machines, Mrs. Goering says you should make a few decisions to limit your search. Decide whether you want an open arm or a flat bed machine and whether a portable or a cabinet model is better for you. Think about how much you want to spend. Although machines range in price from about \$65 to more than \$1,000, Mrs. Goering says a machine at the lowest end of the price range is probably a poor choice if you do much sewing. Plan to spend \$150 to \$200 for a basic machine and add to that cost for each extra feature or convenience you select. Consider the extra cost of financing if you buy a machine on credit, she says.

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add 1--buying a sewing machine?

Once you know your price range, plan to look at three or four machines within that range. Compare them on many features and take along samples of various fabrics to sew on. Include such fabrics as double knits, light weight knits, stretchy sweater knits, heavy coat fabric, sheer woven fabric and even upholstery fabric, fake fur or leather if those are fabrics you expect to sew. On each sample, try a variety of stitches, including buttonholes and seam finishings.

Once you buy a machine, give it a good workout as soon as you have it in your home. Get any repairs or adjustments made before the dealer's guarantee runs out. If free lessons are offered with the machine, be sure to take them, Mrs. Goering says.

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Immediate release

FEW GOOD CUTWORM
CONTROLS LEFT

The severe 1977 cutworm outbreak in corn raised concern about the effectiveness of present controls.

"The EPA caution against aldrin, heptachlor and chlordane left us without good preplant or planting time treatments," says John Lofgren, extension entomologist at the University of Minnesota.

"It's true that, as with rootworm control, many fields were treated which didn't need it since we don't have good detection methods before planting time. Some of the rootworm chemicals (Lorsban and Mocap) are also registered for use against cutworms as band applications at planting time. These may give some control against light to moderate infestations.

"Be sure to check your fields when plants start to emerge--even if you used one of these treatments. If over 10 percent of the corn plants show cutworm damage, use a post emergence treatment such as Sevin spray or bait, or Dylox or toxaphene."

Bait was hard to get at times last year and there were some failures of sprays. This was due to broadcasting instead of band spraying, or because the cutworms were too big or because they were feeding underground.

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Immediate release

WIND EROSION
CAN BE CONTROLLED
SEVERAL WAYS

The soil that blows across the road, makes the snow dark or shows up as dust in the air may come from a nearby field.

However, it may also come from farmlands one or two states away, say extension soils specialists at the University of Minnesota. Wind erosion is twice as likely to occur in western Minnesota than in the eastern part of the state because of dry, windy conditions. However, to keep the wind erosion problem in perspective, strong dry winds are 10 times more likely to occur in southwestern Kansas than in western Minnesota.

Still, wind erosion in Minnesota can be expensive. Taxpayers ultimately pay to remove the soil from roadsides and drainage ditches. Wind erosion may also pose a highway hazard and can be a public discomfort.

There are several ways to control wind erosion:

--Keeping vegetation such as a cover crop of small grain or a cover of cornstalks, grain stubble or strawy manure on the land.

--Cultivating just once after harvest with a chisel plow, field cultivator or disc rather than using a moldboard plow.

--Using wind strips, alternating narrow strips of open land with land in hay or winter cover crops at right angles to the prevailing winds.

--Good field shelterbelts are a more permanent type of wind control. They will fully protect land downwind to a distance equal to about 10 times the height of the windbreak.

Each of these methods has disadvantages in terms of timing and added costs to the farmer. There's no one method of wind erosion control that will fit all farming situations. Conservation tillage methods that leave enough stalks or straw on the surface to control the wind between harvest and June of the following year seem to be most practical.

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ROTATE TO PREVENT
SEVERE ROOTWORM
PROBLEMS IN CORN

Corn rootworm infestations have "almost always been in corn following corn," says University of Minnesota Extension Entomologist John Lofgren.

"Rotation is still the most important thing to consider when deciding whether to treat for rootworms. Rotate away from corn on corn to prevent rootworm damage especially if you observed large numbers of beetles in August 1977."

Lofgren says there have been a few instances where corn planted on small grain or soybean ground has been severely damaged. In most cases, this involved the northern corn rootworm, which moves into other crops or weeds to feed more often than the western rootworm adult. "This happens most often during droughty conditions when the corn dries up before the beetles have laid eggs," says Lofgren.

Normally, first year corn should be treated only if large numbers of beetles were observed moving out of corn into other fields, such as weedy small grain stubble.

In Minnesota, these insecticides have performed almost equally well over the past four years in trials at Waseca and Lamberton: carbofuran (furadan), terbufos (Counter), fonofos (Dyfonate), ethoprop (Mocap), chlorpyrifos (Lorsban) and phorate (Thimet).

"Each chemical should be used at the rate of one full pound of ingredient per acre on a 40-inch row basis," Lofgren says. Some--carbofuran, terbufos or chlorpyrifos--may be safely placed in contact with the seed, although rootworm control will probably not be as good as with a band over the seed.

"Other insecticides may cause severe injury to the corn if placed in contact with the seed. This is important since the type of planter and applicator may influence the choice of insecticide. Some planter attachments may run the granules into the seed furrow."

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CORN BORER
PROBLEMS
NEXT YEAR?

Large second brood European corn borer populations in 1977 present a potential threat to the 1978 corn crop.

"First brood populations could be a problem if weather conditions are favorable for moth emergence, egg laying and early borer survival," says John Lofgren, extension entomologist at the University of Minnesota. "We're having many more overwintering borers than we had in 1976."

Spring surveys will give more information on winter survival, moth emergence and egg laying. Usually the earliest corn is most subject to first brood attack while the later maturing corn is most attractive to second brood borers.

"Plant at the best time for maximum yield potential in your area and use the hybrids with full-season yield potential. Don't try to second guess the borers," Lofgren advises.

Although many seed corn companies have varieties with varying degrees of resistance to first brood borers, many companies are reluctant to advertise these as "resistant" since none are totally resistant. "It's a good idea to ask the seed dealer or company about resistant varieties and use them if they have other qualities you want."

In late June and early July--check fields for shotholing in the whorl leaves--a sign of borer activity. If about half the plants in a field have shotholing and you find live borers in the whorls, treat the field whether it's a resistant hybrid or not. Use granular formulations of carbaryl (Sevin),

add 1-corn borer

carbofuran (Furadan), diazinon, fonofos, (Dyfonate), phorate (Thimet) or
toxaphene. Use toxaphene only on corn for grain--do not feed or graze the stalks.

"There's usually no practical, economical way to treat field corn for heavy
second brood infestations. We have to depend on early harvest to minimize ear
droppage," Lofgren adds.

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ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

NO NEED FOR A JUNGLE
TO GROW BEAUTIFUL ORCHIDS

Orchids don't deserve the reputation they have for being difficult to grow. "You don't have to turn your house into a steaming jungle to grow them successfully," says Steven J. Murray of the University of Minnesota's Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture. "In fact, extremes of heat and humidity will kill most orchids."

Murray says attention to some basic cultural practices will keep most orchids thriving. He advises beginning orchid growers to concentrate on Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilum to gain experience and confidence. Unlike the more familiar Cattleya orchids often used in corsages plants in these two genera do not have a long rest period after blooming. Overwatering during the orchid's rest period is the mistake most often made by beginning orchid growers, according to Murray.

Orchids need at least 45 percent relative humidity during winter months. This is possible by placing pots on moistened gravel-filled dishes.

As the days lengthen, the orchids will grow faster and the watering schedule should change. Both the Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilum require that the potting mix never dry out completely. Because they are potted in bark or a soil-bark mix that does not hold much water, it is hard to know when to water, Murray says. He suggests noting the weight of the pot when recently watered. If the pot feels light when lifted later on, it probably is time to water again.

Orchids need good light, but they cannot stand the heat that sometimes accompanies high intensities. Murray says some of the most successful amateur orchid growing is done under fluorescent lighting alone. Four 4-foot cool-white bulbs about eight inches above the leaf surface promote good growth.

Murray and Deborah L. Brown, extension horticulturist, have written a fact sheet on growing orchids that is available at county agricultural extension service offices or by writing to the Bulletin Room, 3 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108. Request Horticulture Fact Sheet 46 "Orchids for the Home Environment." Single copies are available free to Minnesota residents.

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VEGETARIANISM
REQUIRES KNOW-HOW

"People who give up animal sources of protein must plan meals carefully and be sure they know what they're doing," advises Mary Darling, extension nutritionist at the University of Minnesota.

She says a vegetarian diet can provide adequate nutrition with the proper know-how and selection of foods. Without this, vitamin and protein deficiencies could result, especially for young children.

"Vegans" or pure vegetarians who eat no egg or dairy products as well as no meat must be particularly careful, Ms. Darling says. They must carefully combine plant proteins in meals to make the best use of the amino acids in the protein. Vitamin B₁₂, in particular, may be deficient in the vegan's diet since there is no known practical plant source of this vitamin.

Plant protein can be substituted for meat protein, but there are some differences, according to Ms. Darling. Meat protein is generally considered a higher quality protein, she says, because it contains the amino acids needed by the body in the amounts necessary to make protein tissue.

To get adequate amounts of protein from plants, they must be eaten in the right combinations, she says. "Certain types of plants are 'complementary' in protein, so when they're eaten together, they make up for each other's deficiencies."

Examples of these are legumes and grains eaten together, beans and rice, beans and whole wheat flour, beans and cornmeal and garbanzo beans and sesame seeds.

The specialist warns, however, that such combinations must be eaten in the same meal to be effective. If they're eaten separately, even on the same day, the protein quality won't be enhanced, she says.

Some good combinations for vegetarians include milk and beans or peas, milk and peanut butter, milk and potatoes or milk and sesame seed meal. Other milk products such as yogurt or cheese could be substituted for the milk in these examples, Ms. Darling says.

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Food for Better Health Program



An Expanded Food
and Nutrition Education Program
in Home Economics Extension

January 16, 1978

ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

GRAPEFRUIT ADD ZIP TO WINTER MEALS

Our winter months bring ice, snow, cold temperatures and plentiful supplies of grapefruit at the peak of quality.

Nutritionally, grapefruit are rich in vitamin C, advises Isabel Wolf, food and nutrition specialist at the University of Minnesota. This is the vitamin which helps keep you healthy, helps cuts heal quickly and helps keep your skin and gums firm. Vitamin C cannot be stored in the body so you should eat some food containing vitamin C each day. Other foods containing vitamin C are: cabbage, oranges, potatoes, green pepper, spinach and tomatoes.

Don't pinch the grapefruit when you're shopping. Just lift one gently and see if it's heavy for its size. If it is, better buy a bagful, advises Ms. Wolf. A grapefruit heavy for its size means that it's full of juice. Avoid grapefruit that are pointed on the stem end. Grapefruit with large pores in the skin are usually thick-skinned and not as juicy as the thin-skinned ones.

It's a matter of taste when it comes to deciding between white or pink grapefruit. The pink ones usually are sweeter and less acid. Pink grapefruit also contribute some vitamin A to the day's requirement. And, outside color is not a good indicator of quality since fruit can be equally good if the rind is pale yellow, russet or green-tinged. When you get home from shopping, store grapefruit uncovered in the refrigerator.

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4-H NEWS

Immediate release

4-H MARKET STEERS TO BE WEIGHED, IDENTIFIED BY FEB. 1

(NOTE TO AGENTS: Here is a fill-in-the-blanks story for you to use in notifying 4-H'ers through the mass media concerning the rules for the 4-H livestock projects. Please note: since procedures vary from county to county, you will need to localize the second paragraph by detailing the procedures to be used in your county. As always, be sure to have your secretary retype the story before you submit it to your editors.)

Youngsters enrolled in the 4-H market steer projects need to have their animals weighed, identified and the ownership verified before Feb. 1 if they are planning to exhibit at the _____ county fair or the state market show, according to _____, _____ county Extension agent
(county)
(name) (county)

(ag/h.e./4-H)

(Paragraph detailing the procedures for weighing, identification and verifying ownership.)

Additionally, _____ notes, 4-H'ers enrolled in the beef breeding, horse and dog projects need to have ownership verified by April 1, in order to compete at 4-H sanctioned shows. Those enrolled in the swine, sheep, poultry and rabbit projects need to have ownership verified by June 1, with wether and barrow projects weighed and identified by the same date, he/she adds.

"It also is a good idea, though not required for project completion, to weigh and identify animals in the cow-calf project as soon as possible for accurate recording keeping," he/she says.

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4-H NEWS

Immediate release

(Contact Tom Powell, 612-373-1083, regarding photos).

ENERGY SHOW
SET FOR
HIGH SCHOOL

"Energy Today and Tomorrow," a dramatic, fast-paced, entertaining and educational demonstration-lecture, will be at the _____ High School at _____, _____.
(time) (date)

The program, featuring 4-H Assistant Extension Specialist Bob Anderson, will be presented by the _____ County Extension Office and Minnesota 4-H Youth Development, Agricultural Extension Service, University of Minnesota.

The 40-minute program involves the young people by having them power several appliances with a bicycle generator to demonstrate energy creation and utilization. "Energy Today and Tomorrow," a high school program, is a graphic presentation of the story of fossil fuel supply, energy conservation practices and future technical alternative energy sources. This free educational program presents facts, but does not advocate specific solutions to the energy situation.

Anderson, trained at Oak Ridge Associated Universities, travels to schools throughout the state in a specially equipped van that serves as a mobile lecture-demonstration unit. The program is supported with funds from Northern States Power Co., Minnesota Power and Light Co., Otter Tail Power Co. and Interstate Power Co.

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ANOTHER LOSS YEAR
FOR BEEF PRODUCERS

Beef prices improved in 1977. And feed costs were lower! But farm records indicate that both the feeding sector and the cow-calf sector of the beef industry remained in the red through 1977.

Paul Hasbargen, extension economist in farm management at the University of Minnesota says that this was the fourth year in a row that beef cow herds have not even generated enough income to cover feed costs. However, Hasbargen reports seeing some cow herd records where feed costs were covered in 1977. He expects average losses on cow herds will be considerably less than those of the past three years.

The cattle feeding enterprise has been a losing one for three of the last four years. After heavy losses in 1974, some profits were made in 1975. But, except for cattle sold in May of 1977 and in the last quarter of 1977, losses were incurred on all cattle marketed out of feedlots throughout 1976 and 1977. Preliminary evaluation of feedlot records in 1977 shows that feed costs were not quite covered in most operations. Therefore, how the cattle feeder did in overall farm earnings relative to 1976 will depend upon returns from his other major enterprises--usually cash crops.

The major cattle feeding area in Minnesota--the southwestern part of the state--had considerably higher crop yields in 1977. Thus, farm earnings are expected to show improvement over the very poor performance of 1976 but returns will still be below normal because of the losses sustained in the cattle feeding enterprise.

Profit prospects appear better for both sectors of the beef industry in 1978. According to Hasbargen, the improved outlook stems from an expected decline in beef marketings that will generate higher beef prices while feed costs will be somewhat lower again. Lower forage prices will especially help the cow-calf enterprise.

For example, if hay prices average \$15 to \$20 a ton below a year ago (currently they are fully \$30 under the year earlier price of \$74 per ton), costs of overwintering beef cows will drop by about \$50 per cow unit. Therefore, if steer calf prices are near the \$50 level this fall, cow herds should cover all feed and cash costs for the first time in five years.

Cattle feeders also stand a good chance of at least covering feed and cash costs in 1978. Fed cattle prices are expected to range in the \$40 to \$43 area during much of the year. Cattle sold at the upper side of this range should result in at least "normal" returns to labor and facilities of \$20-\$30 per head.

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HOG PRODUCERS
HAD GOOD YEAR

It was a good year in 1977 for hog producers. Returns over feed costs were up about 50 percent from 1976--moving from \$12 per cwt. of hog produced in 1976 to about \$18 in 1977.

This preliminary information comes from the records of Minnesota hog producers who cooperate with the Minnesota Cooperative Extension Service and the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota.

According to Paul R. Hasbargen, extension economist in farm management at the University of Minnesota, the source of these higher returns to the hog enterprise was lower feed costs since hog prices actually averaged about \$2 under 1976. "So whether an individual hog producer will show higher overall farm earnings depends on what happened to his crop production in 1977," Hasbargen says.

"Hog producers who had large increases in average yields will show increases in net income. Early averages of hog producers in southwestern Minnesota show a 20 percent jump in average net farm income. However, in southeastern Minnesota where the drought was not as severe in 1976, we expect a more modest improvement in farm earnings of hog producers since their base 1976 income level was better."

Given the good returns to the hog enterprise in 1977, farmers are expanding hog production in 1978. Currently, hog marketings are running near year earlier levels and hog prices are remaining very strong at the mid-forty level. As marketings increase during the year, prices are expected to move down to the mid-thirties for the final quarter of 1978. For the year, prices are expected to average about \$2 below 1977 levels.

Feed costs in 1978 are expected to be somewhat below the 1977 level. Production costs other than feed will be up slightly. Therefore, net returns as projected by Hasbargen are expected to average at least 5 percent below the high 1977 level. "However," Hasbargen adds, "hog production will remain more profitable than usual--at least until near the end of the year. Therefore, hog producers who harvest a normal crop in 1978 can expect another relatively good income year."

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DAIRYMEN HAD A
VERY GOOD YEAR

Minnesota farmers who specialize in milk production had an excellent income year in 1977.

Milk prices averaged slightly higher and feed costs were down sharply from 1976. Therefore, returns over feed costs per cow were up about five percent over 1976 returns. And, 1976 was the highest profit year on record for dairying up until 1977.

Returns over feed costs per cow averaged over \$500 in 1976--compared to \$300 to \$370 in the previous three years. Preliminary information from the record analysis of Minnesota dairymen who are cooperating with the Minnesota Cooperative Extension Service and the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota suggest that returns over feed costs per cow will average even higher in 1977. According to Paul R. Hasbargen, extension economist in farm management, the return to pay labor and non-feed costs in 1977 is almost double the average return of the five years prior to 1976.

Hasbargen expects that when the higher return per cow is added to the much larger crop production obtained by many Minnesota dairymen, the result will probably be record dollar earnings for dairy farmers in 1977. But when you consider the declining value of the dollar, real earnings were greater in 1973 when all types of farms had unusually high earnings because of the large January to January increase in crop prices, he says.

Looking ahead to 1978, milk prices are expected to average somewhat higher whereas feed costs will show another decline. Thus, returns over feed costs will probably increase more than non-feed costs, giving dairymen the potential of another excellent farm income year if crop and milk production levels are maintained.

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STATE FARM
EARNINGS UP
IN 1977

Farm earnings in 1977 will be higher than 1976 for most types of farms in Minnesota according to an early analysis of farm records.

The farm records showing these results are those of farmers in southern Minnesota who cooperate with the Minnesota Cooperative Extension Service and the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota.

Preliminary findings from 1977 farm records were recently released by Delane Welsch and Paul Hasbargen, extension economists in farm management at the University of Minnesota. They caution that these preliminary findings may change as more records are analyzed. However, early indications are that both dairy and hog farmers had exceptionally high earnings in 1977. On the other hand, beef producers and crop farmers had another low income year, although they showed some improvement over the very poor returns in the drought areas in 1976.

For the U.S., U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates suggest that 1977 farm earnings per farm will be essentially the same as in 1976, Hasbargen says. The difference between the U.S. situation of stable earnings and the Minnesota's increased earnings is due to the tremendous crop production jump in Minnesota in 1977 when corn and soybean production was almost double the 1976 drought restricted level. Also, the Minnesota farm income was helped by the relatively greater importance of dairy and hogs as compared to most other states. Minnesota is third in dairy production and fifth in hogs.

USDA farm income estimates show that average farm earnings have been declining since the high income year of 1973. That was the only year on record that the per capita income of farm people was higher than that of non-farmers. But, despite the recent drops in farm prices and farm incomes, comparisons of the current well-being of farmers with that of the 1930's is very misleading. At that time the per capita income of farmers from all sources was only 30 to 40 percent of that of non-farmers. In 1976 and 1977 it is estimated to be 80 to 82 percent of that of non-farmers. And, the absolute level of both groups is much higher than in the thirties.

Looking ahead to 1978, the USDA is expecting farm income to remain near the 1977 level. Hasbargen expects Minnesota farm income to decline somewhat in 1978 unless there is a repeat of the record crop yields of 1977.

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FARM HELP AVAILABLE
THROUGH UM PEP PROGRAM

Farmers who need a farm helper for three months can receive a junior or senior agricultural student under a new change of emphasis in the Professional Experience Program (PEP) of the University of Minnesota College of Agriculture.

According to PEP Coordinator Steve LeFever, the program was set up three years ago by the agricultural faculty at UM as a way to give students on-hands experiences in farming and agribusiness. But, he says, most of the students in the past years have been interns with agribusiness or governmental institutions rather than with farm concerns. With changing enrollment patterns in the college (now, some sixty percent of the undergraduates are from nonfarm backgrounds) there is an increased need for internships with farm concerns.

"We are actively soliciting farmers to take on students, especially students with nonfarm backgrounds, for three-month internships, so that the students can get some idea of what farming is like," LeFever explained.

For students, the program gives on-hands experiences with farming which should help them make wise course selections when they resume studies at University of Minnesota. Students may also receive up to six credits for the work experience.

Barbara Pumper, an agronomy student who came from a nonfarm background participated in the PEP program last year. She was assigned to work on a farm near Winnebago, Minnesota for her six hours credit. According to Pumper, the PEP program brought her many new and practical experiences.

"Each and every day I picked up new skills, techniques or discovered an easier way to do things. I've learned how the grain market operates, something about farm economics and why farmers can and sometimes do receive a price for their corn which is lower than production cost. It has been a valuable, gratifying experience."

For the farmer, he will receive help on his farm for three months, usually just for the cost of the student's room and board. He also will have a chance to exchange ideas and information concerning agriculture with the student, LeFever said.

"We are confident the program will be beneficial to both the farmer and the student. We encourage any farmer who needs some help for three months and who can take time to teach a student some of the techniques of farming to enroll in the program."

Farmers interested in knowing more about the program should contact Steve LeFever, 277 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn. 55108.
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TAKE TAX CREDITS
POLLUTION CONTROL

Farmers who have recently installed pollution control facilities should take advantage of Minnesota income tax credits.

This applies even if you had no taxable income for 1977. Farmers who qualify but had no tax liability for 1977 should still fill out the required form now. Farm operators with less tax liability than tax credit may carry unused credits forward to the following tax year when there may be a tax liability.

The unused credit is the excess of a credit earned in a tax year that is greater than the amount of the tax liability. The unused credit is not eligible for carryback to any previous taxable year. However, it may be carried forward to the four taxable years following the year of purchase.

"The tax credit is not the same as a deduction since a credit is deducted after the tax liability is computed," says Philip R. Goodrich, University of Minnesota extension agricultural engineer. The 10 percent state income tax credit is allowed for equipment or devices purchased on or after Jan. 1, 1977.

Eligible pollution control facilities include dikes, diversions, waste holding lagoons and other earthworks. Also, slotted floors and manure storage facilities, slurry handling equipment such as manure pumps, liquid manure spreaders and soil injection equipment.

You can also claim a 10 percent federal investment credit on most pollution control equipment. There is also an exemption from real estate taxes in Minnesota for real property used primarily for pollution control.

-more-

add 1--take tax credits

To apply for state tax credits, obtain "Schedule FPC" at a regional tax office or from the Income Tax Division, Department of Revenue, Centennial Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55145. You also need a photocopy of your Minnesota Pollution Control Agency feedlot permit to attach to your state income tax form. For specialized equipment not listed on schedule FPC or a MPCA permit, you need a letter of certification from the MPCA. Write: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 1935 West County Road B-2, Roseville, MN 55113. Allow two to three weeks to receive a certification letter from MPCA.

To get a property tax exemption for pollution control facilities, file an application with the Commissioner of Revenue. Goodrich says the slotted floor and manure pit in a confinement hog building is an example of a potential exemption. (The confinement building itself is not exempt). The application form may be obtained from county assessors or from the Property Equalization Division, Centennial Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55145.

These are legitimate tax incentives, not loopholes, says Goodrich. "Look at them as the government's way to encourage producers to help protect the environment," he adds.

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CROP FARMERS HAD
ANOTHER MIXED YEAR

Prices, yields and costs all influence net returns from crop production. Prices were sharply lower on most farm commodities in 1977. Production was up sharply while costs were up slightly.

Corn prices received by Minnesota farmers were equal to year earlier levels at the start of 1977, dropped to a full dollar under in August and then recovered to \$1.82 in December to end the year 50 cents under the 1976 December price.

Wheat prices in 1977 ranged from \$1 below 1976 levels in January to only 13 cents under in December. Barley, oats and flax have all been relatively low priced during 1977.

On the other hand, soybean prices averaged higher in 1977, being fully twice as high as 1976 in April. By December, however, bean prices were \$1 below year earlier levels under pressure of the one-third larger U.S. crop.

Fall prices of sugarbeets and dry edible beans were significantly higher than in 1976.

Production of crops set a new record both in Minnesota and the U.S. in 1977. Timely rains gave Minnesota farmers almost twice as much corn and soybeans compared to the 1976 drought year. Per acre yields and total state production were up for every major crop.

"So whether an individual farmer increased or decreased his net earnings from crops in 1977 depended on which crops he grew, his marketing strategy, and his crop yields relative to 1976," says Paul R. Hasbargen, extension economist in farm management at the University of Minnesota. Preliminary information from the records of members of the Southwestern Minnesota Farm Management Association show that 1977 farm earnings of crop farmers are averaging 15 percent better than 1976, when many had poor crop yields because of the drought. But both years are low relative to the 1973-75 period of high grain prices.

The outlook for the crop farmer in 1978, according to Hasbargen, is for "some reduction from 1977." Corn prices will average about the same to down 5 percent, whereas the remarkable 100 bushel yield achieved by Minnesota farmers in 1977 is not likely to be repeated.

Soybean prices are expected to average 25 percent lower in 1978. Wheat prices will be maintained at near target price levels by the new government program--at least for those who participate in the 20 percent set-aside.

(over)

add 1--crop farmers had another mixed year

Therefore, the overall outlook is for reduced earnings for crop producers in 1978. With the generally lower commodity prices expected while farm costs continue to creep up, it is the crop farmer who will be under the most economic stress in the coming year. However, he was the one who enjoyed large windfall profits in 1973 and 1974 when grain prices were unusually high.

Also, the crop farmer with his larger acreage has shown the largest increase in wealth in recent years. The threefold increase in Minnesota land values since 1971 resulted in a quarter of a million dollar--or greater--net worth increase to many specialized crop producers who own more than a half section of land. And, as far as annual cash returns are concerned, Hasbargen points out that the pendulum will swing back in favor of the crop producer again one of these years after a year or two of shortfalls in world-wide crop production.

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Immediate release

COOKING FOR ONE OR TWO
CAN BE A CHALLENGE

For years, cooking has been a family affair. Grocery stores, package sizes and even recipes traditionally have been geared to large family cookery. And for a reason--families used to be much larger than they are now.

Today, however, one and two-member households make up almost 50 percent of all households in the U.S. They include couples without children, singles, divorced and widowed persons, middle-aged couples whose children have left home and senior citizens.

According to Mary Darling, extension nutritionist at the University of Minnesota, members of such households may find managing food resources more difficult. They may spend and waste more per person than larger families.

"After all, a ham or cake is just too much for one or two people to eat without resulting in monotonous meals," she says.

Ms. Darling has these suggestions for small-scale shoppers:

* When shopping, buy foods you can use within a reasonable length of time. Potatoes are no bargain if they spoil before you can use them. A small package may seem expensive, but so is food that is thrown out.

* Consider using some convenience foods. Watch prices and calories carefully. Single-serving cans of fruits or vegetables may actually be a better deal for the price than a larger size that would be wasted.

* If you do buy the larger-sized product, divide the contents into individual portions and freeze.

* When buying meats, ask the butcher to cut and wrap meats suited to your needs.

* If you buy a large roast, ham or chicken, cut it into meal-sized portions. Package and freeze what you can't use right away.

* Freeze foods like meatballs, stews, meat loaf and turkey before they become "leftovers." Freeze immediately to retain maximum nutrition and flavor.

* Divide a cake mix or other dry mix in half or thirds before mixing. Store the rest for use within several weeks.

* Freeze loaves of bread and use slices as you need them. Consider wrapping single portions of muffins and rolls for later use.

* Shop and share with a neighbor. Divide the contents of large packages and share the cost.

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Department of Information
and Agricultural Journalism
Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
January 30, 1978

Immediate release

CATTLE OUTLOOK FOR 1978

The Jan. 1 cattle on feed report showed an increase of 7 percent over year earlier levels.

This increase was in line with trade expectations, according to Paul R. Hasbargen, extension economist in farm management at the University of Minnesota.

Also, the weight distribution indicates that the marketing of fed cattle will be increasing in February and March. Consequently, Hasbargen expects that "fed cattle prices will drift lower during the next 60 to 90 days unless there is a larger than expected cut back in cow slaughter." However, after the low in March and April, fed cattle prices should strengthen back into the 41 to 43 area this summer.

Most analysts are expecting cow slaughter to drop off during 1978. This will mean that cow prices will likely increase more than choice cattle and hamburger prices will increase more than choice cuts at the beef counter.

Minnesota feedlots showed a larger percentage increase in cattle on feed (18 percent) than any state in the nation, except New Mexico (26 percent). This larger shift relative to a year ago can be attributed to the feed shortage in Minnesota last winter following the 1976 drought.

However, the 400,000 head reported on feed by Minnesota feeders is still below the levels of 1976 when the numbers on feed were 430,000. This is in contrast to the 23-state total which is four percent greater than on Jan. 1, 1976. These increases over the past two years are prompted by lower feed prices. Thus, a larger percentage of available feeder cattle are being placed on grain feeds aimed at finishing them to a USDA grade of "Good," "Choice" or "Prime."

In 1978, it is expected that 68 to 70 percent of all cattle slaughtered will be out of feedlots. This proportion for 1977 was 62 percent.

Additional information on the cattle situation will become available next week when the USDA releases its Jan. 1 cattle inventory estimates. It is expected that the national cow herd will be down by 1.5 to 2 million head. This will be good news to beef cow herd owners since it will suggest that they can expect choice steer calves to be worth about \$50/cwt. this fall--about \$5 more than last fall.

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Department of Information
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University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
January 30, 1978

Immediate release

HOG FARMERS: EVALUATE
FEED ADDITIVES FOR
COST EFFECTIVENESS

Hog farmers will probably be using fewer feed additives within the next five years, predicts a University of Minnesota veterinarian.

"You may as well get used to using fewer feed additives since there's a good chance that their use will become more restricted," says Dr. Al Leman, the University of Minnesota veterinarian.

Leman suggests doing informal, on-farm cost-benefit research. "Make a chart for each ration you're feeding. Make columns for the feed additive, what it costs, its required withdrawal time and your estimate of its cost-benefit effectiveness.

"It may be hard to get information on what additives are in the ration and their actual cost. And it's difficult to get an exact handle on their cost effectiveness. However, if you're paying \$10 for an additive you need to get more than \$10 back or it's not a wise investment," the Minnesota veterinarian says.

"The main thing we're trying to get across is that hog farmers need to do some hard evaluations of whether specific feed additives are paying off."

To avoid residue problems with sulfa drugs, Leman suggests eliminating sulfa drugs from finishing rations or from rations fed sows that are scheduled for market. Although the regulation stipulates that sulfa drugs must be withdrawn at least seven days before shipment, he suggests a minimum of 14 days.

The general public has a poor understanding of food residue issues, says Leman. Although a scientific link between drug use in animal feed and decreased effectiveness of drugs to combat human disease organisms is "nonexistent," many people will still pay a premium for "non-residue" food, he adds.

Science probably will not get a chance to make a decision in the case of feed additives. The public is generally opposed to additives and the surrounding uncertainties.

"I'm afraid we'll see more and more restrictions on valuable feed additives that have no proven link to human health problems," he says.

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Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
January 30, 1978

Immediate release

MOREX BARLEY
RELEASED BY UM

Morex is a new barley released by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station Feb. 1, 1978. It is a high yielding variety with good agronomic characteristics. Quality evaluation indicates that Morex has a good chance of succeeding as a malting barley.

The cross that led to Morex was made in 1969 and involved Cree and Bonanza. Bonanza was the most widely grown barley variety in Canada in 1977. Cree is a high yielding Minnesota barley released in 1972. It was not widely grown because of a tendency for thin kernels and various other quality factors. Bonanza is susceptible to the very important disease spot blotch. Morex corrects these defects and has other advantages in addition.

The yield of Morex has been impressive both in Minnesota and in the surrounding area, according to Don Rasmusson, barley breeder at the University of Minnesota. It has averaged more than six bushels or about 10 percent higher in yield than Larker over a four-year period at five Minnesota locations. It is similar in maturity and height to Larker and Manker. Morex is superior to Larker in lodging resistance, but not quite equal to Manker. Kernel plumpness is nearly equal to Larker.

Morex has a high level of resistance to stem rust and loose smut and is moderately resistant to spot blotch according to Roy Wilcoxson, University of Minnesota plant pathologist. These are probably the most important diseases in barley in Minnesota. In comparison, Larker has resistance to stem rust only. Morex appears more susceptible to bacterial blight than either Larker or Manker, but this has not been a serious problem in Minnesota.

add 1--morex barley released

As barley growers become more familiar with Morex, they may note its awns fall off at maturity under some growing conditions. This should not influence its performance. Awn dropping appears to be associated with other characters that may be of consequence. "We have observed that Morex threshes easily with less skinning," says Roy Thompson, extension agronomist." On the other hand, shattering is more likely in this type of variety. Some shattering occurred in Morex at Stephen, Minn., in 1977, but we do not believe it will be a problem. Harvesting as soon as the crop is ripe should help reduce the hazard."

Initial quality testing was started in 1971 with malting and brewing tests made on 7,000 bushels in 1976. Further large scale tests are being made on 19,000 bushels of the 1977 crop. Final results will not be available from these tests until the fall of 1978. Thus far Morex looks promising and University of Minnesota specialists expect it will be acceptable for malting and brewing.

The name Morex (more extract) was chosen because the variety has a two to three percent higher extract than other Midwestern six-row varieties. This means maltsters will get significantly higher product yield than from currently available varieties. The other malting characteristics such as color, grain protein, and diastatic power appear to be satisfactory.

The seed increase and testing program was speeded up through the use of greenhouses and initial increases in Mexico and Arizona. In the winter of 1975-1976, 150 bushels of seed were produced in Arizona. Part of this production was diverted to the increase of seed for the quality testing program and the balance was used for building up seed supplies.

Approximately 8,500 bushels of foundation or registered seed are being distributed in Minnesota through the local county seed distribution committees to experienced Minnesota Crop Improvement Association seed producers. Some seed will be available commercially in 1979.

Department of Information
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Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
January 30, 1978

Immediate Release

ANGUS IS NEW HIGH
YIELD, GOOD QUALITY
WHEAT FROM MINNESOTA

Angus is a hard red spring wheat released by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station and USDA-ARS Feb.1, 1978.

Angus is a high yielding variety that is about equal to Kitt but with superior test weight. It has satisfactory milling performance, mixing characteristics and general bread making quality.

The cross that led to Angus was made in 1964 and involved a number of different varieties and breeding lines, according to Farouk Elsayed, scientist at the University of Minnesota. Angus corrects some of the quality defects of Kitt and shows an improvement in leaf rust resistance over Era.

State and regional tests in the spring wheat region show that Angus is similar to Kitt in yield but slightly lower than Era. The bushel weight of Angus is similar to Polk, Chris and Era, but better than Kitt, Olaf and Waldron. Minnesota farmers may expect a higher price for their wheat from the bread baking industry due to a higher bushel weight.

Angus is mid-season to late in maturity and is adapted for planting in the northern areas of the north-central spring wheat growing region. It is resistant to the prevalent rates of stem rust and has a different leaf rust resistance gene than Era, according to Donald McVey, plant pathologist at the USDA-ARS Cereal Rust Laboratory in St. Paul.

Angus is also tolerant of ergot, loose smut, and most foliar diseases, adds Roy Wilcoxson, plant pathologist, University of Minnesota. Angus is equivalent to Chris and superior to Era in bake absorption and loaf volume, but has a longer mixing time than Chris and Era. In general, Angus has satisfactory milling and baking characteristics.

Angus is an awned semi-dwarf, with yellow straw and bronze chaff.

Initial yield testing was started in Minnesota yield trials in 1969 and in the USDA Uniform Regional Hard Red Spring Wheat Nursery in 1972. Indications are that the variety will provide the farmer with yield stability in different growing seasons. It will take advantage of optimum conditions and yet is as productive as Kitt under less favorable conditions.

Approximately 1500 bushels of foundation or registered seed are being distributed in Minnesota through local county seed distribution committees to experienced Minnesota Crop Improvement Association seed producers. Limited seed should be available commercially in 1979.

Department of Information
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Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
January 30, 1978

ATT. Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

ASSERT YOURSELF
FOR MORE ENJOYMENT
IN DINING OUT

Speak up, America. You have nothing to lose and more satisfaction from restaurant meals to gain, says Robert Olson, extension food service management specialist at the University of Minnesota.

More and more of the average person's budget is going for restaurant eating, Olson says. Americans eat an average of one meal a day away from home and in the 1980's this is expected to climb to at least half our meals eaten out.

Despite this, Olson says, most Americans are passive about the food and service they receive when eating out. "If you were shopping in a department store that didn't have what you wanted, you wouldn't automatically select something else. Nor would you keep something that turned out to be defective."

Restaurant diners have the same options, Olson says. And by letting your waiter, waitress or restaurant manager know if you're dissatisfied, you may improve things for other customers and insure yourself better service if you return to the restaurant on another occasion.

For example, Olson says, if a restaurant always serves much larger portions than seem necessary, mention this to the manager. Your suggestions might help them cut waste and hold prices in line. And don't be embarrassed to ask for a "people" bag if you have leftovers. What's left on your plate will be thrown out.

One way to stretch your restaurant budget is to choose restaurants that offer a choice of portions, especially if you find you can't eat all you're served, Olson suggests. If the menu doesn't tell what size the meat portions are, ask your waiter or waitress and let the management know that you want this kind of information.

-more-

add 1--assert yourself

Olson also offered these tips for more economical dining out:

* Look for "specials" advertised by restaurants. Some offer special prices on certain days of the week or at set times of the day.

* If you're going to eat out once a day, it's often less expensive to make that your lunch. You may pay less for the same type of food then than you would at night. Portions, however, may be smaller.

* If you are unfamiliar with a restaurant, ask to see a menu before being seated. This will help make your dining experience more pleasant and less full of surprises.

* Remember that what is on the plate is important but so is the decor, atmosphere and service.

* Shop around for the best buys in restaurant food. Good restaurants aren't necessarily the most expensive ones.

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Department of Information and
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Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
February 1978

ASC
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The University of Minnesota
including the Agriculture
Extension Service is an equal
opportunity educator and
employer.

SPECIAL SHORT COURSE SCHEDULE (March - August 1978)

- Feb. 28-Mar. 2; Home Sewage Treatment Workshops, Feb. 28-Mar. 2, Mankato;
Mar. 21-23; Mar. 21-23, Bloomington; Mar. 28-30, Fergus Falls; Apr. 4-6,
Mar. 28-30; Grand Rapids. For county sanitarians, zoning officers, con-
April 4-6 tractors, county planners, public health inspectors and
 building inspectors.*GW
- February 28, Commercial Applicators Pesticide Workshops, Feb. 28-March 1,
March 1,2,3, Rochester; March 2-3, Mankato; March 6-7, St. Paul; March
6,7,14,15,16,17, 14-15, Marshall; March 16-17, Morris; March 21-22, St. Cloud;
21,22,28,29,30 March 28-29, Grand Rapids; March 30-31, Crookston. For
April 4 pesticide dealers, custom applicators, educators and regulatory
 personnel. To provide information on plant and animal pest
 problems and pesticides and will enable applicators to
 qualify for or renew their licenses. *EA
- February 28, 1978 Consumer Housing Short Course--A Place to Live: Remodeling
March 6,7,9, Your Older Home, Feb. 28, March 7,14,21, Minneapolis; March 2,
13,14,16,20, 9,16,30, South St. Paul; March 6,13,20,27, Faribault; March 7,
21,23,27,28, 14,21,28, Stillwater; March 9,16,23,30, St. Paul; March 13,
30, 20,27, April 4, Duluth. Designed to help consumers desiring
April 4 to remodel an older home understand the basic remodeling
 processes, assess basic deficiencies in their dwelling, identify
 desired improvements and begin to put these plans into action.*CC
- March 1 Mosquito Control Pesticide Workshop, Student Center, St. Paul
 Campus. For commercial and non-commercial mosquito control
 workers.*EA
- March 1,3,7, Municipal Tree Inspectors Workshop (replaces Dutch Elm Disease
15,17,22,29, and Oak Wilt Tree Inspector Short Course), March 1, Rochester;
31 March 3, Mankato; March 7, St. Paul; March 15, Marshall;
 March 17, Morris; March 22, St. Cloud; March 29, Grand Rapids;
 March 31, Crookston. Training and testing opportunities will be
 provided so participants can become certified as a Minnesota
 Tree Inspector.*EA

*For further information call Office of Special Programs
CN--Curtis Norenberg 612-373-0725
RM--Richard Meronuck "
GW--Gerald Wagner "
EA--Eugene Anderson "
CC--Chere Coggins "

Page 2 - Special Short Course Schedule

- March 7-8 Alfalfa Institute National Symposium, Radisson South Hotel, Bloomington. A national symposium on the production and utilization of alfalfa. Research results and producer expertise will be presented. *RM
- March 8,9,
15,16 Fair Management Short Course, March 8, Elks Club, Owatonna; March 9, Donovan's Center, Redwood Falls; March 15, Holiday Inn, Detroit Lakes; March 16, Tobie's Restaurant, Hinckley. For fair board members, fair officers, superintendents and supervisors who have management responsibilities for county, district and state fairs.*CN
- March 8-9 Pest Control Operators Conference, Sheraton Inn Northwest, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Current information on identification, prevention and safe control of structural pests.*EA
- March 9 Marine Operators Conference, Marriott Inn, Bloomington. The course is for the marine industry of Minnesota. The purpose is to bring together the marine operators of the state to talk about federal and state regulations and the business outlook.*RM
- March 9-10 Minnesota Commercial Aerial Applicators Workshop, Arrowwood Lodge, Alexandria. Designed for aerial pesticide dealers. To provide information on plant and animal pest problems and pesticides accreditation for retention of the pesticide applicator's license.*RM
- March 14 Dairy Day, Southern Exp. Station, Waseca.+
- March 17-18 Beekeepers Short Course, St. Paul Campus Student Center. For hobby beekeepers and all others interested in beekeeping.*EA
- March 19-20 Commercial Small Fruit Growers, Holiday Inn, Roseville. For commercial small fruit growers.*RM
- March 20-22 Liquefied Petroleum Gas, St. Paul Campus. A concentrated study program on the latest technical service, and commercial developments in liquefied petroleum gas equipment and appliances. For servicemen and technicians in the Minnesota gas industry.*CN
- March 20,21,
22,28,29 Forest Owners and Users Conference, March 20, St. Paul; March 21, Duluth; March 22, Grand Rapids; March 28, Bemidji; March 29, Rochester. The topic will be forest wildlife.*EA
- March 20,21,22
23,29,30,31
April 4,5,6,7 Township Officers Short Course, March 20, U of M Technical College, Waseca; March 21, Holiday Inn South, Rochester; March 22, Orchid Inn, Sleepy Eye; March 23, Southwest State Univ., Marshall; March 29, Moose Lodge, Brainerd; March 30, St. Johns Univ., Colleeville; March 31, Community College, Willmar; April 4, Holiday Inn, Fergus Falls; April 5, AVTI, Detroit Lakes; April 6, Auditorium, Thief River Falls; April 7, Rainbow Inn, Grand Rapids. To help officers understand their roles and responsibilities and provide them with technical knowledge and updated reference materials for the township officers handbook.*GW

Page 3 - Special Short Course Schedule

- March 21 Minnesota Livestock Industry Day and Annual Meeting, Minnesota Livestock Breeder's Association, U of M Technical College, Waseca. Latest trends and issues in the livestock industry and their implications for the Minnesota Livestock Breeders.*CN
- March 22 Combined Turf and Athletic Turf Short Course, Sheraton Inn Northwest, Brooklyn Park. For personnel responsible for the upkeep of athletic fields. The course will cover sod management, fertilizer rates and recommended analysis, disease control, implications of the energy shortage on the turf industry, efficient fertilizer use, grass seed availability, minimum maintenance and quality turf.*RM
- March 28, April 3,10, 17,24 1978 Consumer Housing Short Course--A Place to Live: Building, Buying or Remodeling your Home, Ortonville. Designed to help consumers desiring a housing change understand the basic advantages, processes and obligations sufficiently to decide whether to build a new home, buy an existing home or remodel a home.*CC
- March 28 Dairy Day, NW Exp. Station, Crookston.+
- April 1 Meats Up-Dating, Meat Science Lab, St. Paul Campus. For foods educators who desire to stay current on the latest topics concerning meat.*GW
- April 3 Rural Landscaping Short Course, Lambertson Exp. Station. For persons interested in landscaping farm homes.*RM
- April 4 Land Use Workshop, Anoka County Activity Center. To enable secondary school teachers to develop land use planning materials for use in their classes.*EA
- April 7,8 Quality Assurance Workshop: Chef's Food Preparation Workers' Course, April 7-8, (location to be announced). Directed at kitchen operations, the course includes discussion of Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota sanitation regulations and how to write quality assured, microbiologically safe, recipe procedures.*CC
- April 7 Food Day, 1978, McGuires Inn, St. Paul. For home economists, home economics educators and consumers interested in current topics and controversies related to food science and nutrition.*CC
- April 8 Annual Spring Clinic for Horsemen, Animal Science -- Veterinary Medicine Building, University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Educational programs on subjects of current interest to horsemen. For horsemen, owners, breeders, saddle club members, 4-H project members, stable owners and managers, and others.*GW
- April 8 Roadsides as a Natural Resource, Classroom Office Building, St. Paul Campus. To develop a roadside management plan for focusing on flora and fauna which will best serve the public interest.*EA

Page 4 - Special Short Course Schedule

- April 12 Food Service: Teaching Tools and Techniques, Student Center, St. Paul Campus. To assist those individuals responsible for training food service employees to determine the most effective instructional tools and techniques, use and evaluate these techniques.*CC
- April 13 Annual College of Home Economics Conference--"Changing Consumption Patterns: Scaling Up or Down?", McNeal Hall, St. Paul Campus. To facilitate dialogue among business leaders, public policy makers, community agency representatives and University faculty on the questions and issues implied by a changing resource base.*CC
- April 15 Upper Midwest Trout Symposium, Classroom Office Building, St. Paul Campus. A forum for concerned trout anglers and resource managers.*EA
- April 21 Maynard Speece Appreciation Dinner, Marriott Inn, Bloomington. To honor Maynard Speece for his contribution to Minnesota agriculture.*EA
- April 23-26 Minnesota FFA Convention and Leadership Conference, St. Paul Campus. To promote a learning experience for vocational agriculture students and FFA members.*CN
- April 25 Nature Photography Workshop, Wildflower Photography, Student Center, St. Paul Campus. For amateur photographers and naturalists interested in recording the natural world with a camera.*EA
- April/May Peat Symposium (date and place to be announced). An examination of Minnesota's peat resource.*EA
- May 3 Minnesota Agriculture, Dakota County. A workshop to enable secondary school teachers to become acquainted with modern agricultural production.*EA
- May 19-21 Minnesota State Fire School, St. Paul Campus. For volunteer and paid fire department personnel, city officials and interested government and industry personnel who deal in fire safety, prevention, control and rescue and first aid work.*EA
- June 6 Gisela Knopka Retirement Day, Radisson Downtown Hotel, Minneapolis. A public symposium on current topics in youth development and a reception to honor Dr. Konopka on her retirement.*CC

Department of Information
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Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
February 6, 1978

Immediate release

FORESTRY MEETING
SET FOR LATE MARCH

A meeting for forest owners and users is scheduled for _____
(location &
_____, beginning at 7:30 p.m.
date)

The program will stress the impact of forest management on wildlife. It's intended for forest landowners and others who use forest products.

The relationship between man, the forest and wildlife will be discussed by James Kitts, extension wildlife specialist at the University of Minnesota. Marvin Smith, extension forester at the University of Minnesota, will discuss good forestry practices for the private landowner.

Five such meetings are scheduled throughout the state in late March. For more information contact the _____ County Extension office.

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Alternative lead to story: Five meetings for forest owners and users are scheduled throughout the state in late March. Dates and locations are as follows.

- March 20, St. Paul, Room H33, McNeal Hall, St. Paul Campus, University of Minnesota
- March 21, Duluth, Room 70, Home Economics Building, Duluth Campus, University of Minnesota
- March 22, Grand Rapids, Room 137, Willson Hall, Itasca Community College
- March 28, Bemidji, DNR Regional Headquarters Buildings
- March 29, Rochester, 4-H Buildings, Olmsted County Fairgrounds

The meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

CA, IA

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
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February 6, 1978

Immediate release

SLEEPING PLANT IS
HARD TO KILL

"Sleeping leaves catch less herbicide than wide-awake leaves, at least in the case of velvetleaf," says research agronomist Robert N. Andersen.

Andersen, a researcher with USDA's Agricultural Research Service and the University of Minnesota, says that velvetleaf (a serious weed in corn, cotton, and soybeans) goes through a "sleep" cycle daily. The large circular leaf droops to a nearly vertical position from late afternoon until early morning.

"This means that the hard-working farmer who is out spraying herbicides on his fields late at night or early in the morning will not control velvetleaf nearly as effectively as he would if he sprayed during the middle of the day," Andersen said.

Andersen, working with University of Minnesota plant physiologist Willard L. Koukkari, grew velvetleaf plants in growth chambers. The plants received 16 hours of light and eight hours of darkness each day. Herbicides were applied to different groups of plants at four-hour intervals over a 24-hour period. After treatment, the plants were kept in the greenhouse for 10 days and then evaluated for herbicide damage.

Plants treated during the dark period, when leaves were "asleep," showed as little as 28 percent damage. All plants treated during the midday period were killed.

In another test, Andersen sprayed velvetleaf when the plant's leaves were mechanically supported during the "sleep" period so they could not droop. He achieved nearly as good herbicide control at night as during the day.

The researchers also measured the amount of spray retained by velvetleaf plants at different stages of leaf droop. The amount of spray retained varied according to the leaf angle. The greatest retention of herbicide was by the most upright leaves.

"The research suggests that a major cause of the time-of-day effect in velvetleaf's response to herbicide treatment is the change in leaf orientation and the resulting change in spray retention," he says.

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Immediate release

GOOD NEWS FOR
BEEF PRODUCERS

Reductions of total beef supplies in 1978 should add a "couple dollars" to 1977 prices, says Paul Hasbargen, extension economist at the University of Minnesota.

Hasbargen says prices should increase about a dollar during the first half of 1978 and \$2 to \$3 during the last half. Marketings of fed cattle during the first half of the year will surpass 1977 levels.

However, cow slaughter may run about 15 percent lower. "Given normal weather and adequate pastures, total beef supplies will tighten further in the last half of the year," Hasbargen says.

"It appears that demand may be back at a more 'normal' level in 1978. This is currently adding \$2 to \$3 over year earlier levels.

"If this demand holds, it should prevent top choice steers from dropping below \$40. However, declines to near this level are quite possible during March-April as fed cattle marketings increase due to high placement rates last fall."

Yearling feeder prices will tend to follow fat cattle prices. So some temporary weakness could occur in March-April before the usual spring price increase in May.

Given good grain production again this year, feeder prices this fall should show another \$5 gain over last fall. Steer calves may be up more than \$5, possibly to the \$50 area. Yearlings could be up less than \$5.

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February 6, 1978

ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

BEWARE OF DAMAGED
HIGH INTENSITY, BULBS

Treat damaged high intensity lamp bulbs with respect, advises Robert Aherin, extension safety program specialist at the University of Minnesota. Such mercury vapor and metal halide lamps can emit dangerous ultraviolet radiation if they are used when the outer bulb is damaged.

Such lamps are often used in large buildings such as warehouses and sometimes in livestock buildings. Many farms have them as yard lights, Aherin says.

The Food and Drug Administration is developing safety standards for the lamps. One type of lamp already on the market shuts itself off after a few minutes with the outer bulb broken. Another kind carries a warning that it shouldn't be used in areas where people would be exposed if the outer bulb broke.

Aherin says ultraviolet radiation is invisible but can cause severe skin burns and eye damage. To avoid problems with lighting fixtures of these types, he suggests:

* Check the lamps regularly for missing, broken or punctured outer bulbs. This should be done with the lamps off.

* Use enclosed lighting fixtures with protective shields to protect the lamp and absorb ultraviolet radiation.

* Turn the lamp off immediately if a bulb is broken.

* Replace bulbs only when the lamps are off.

* If exposed to ultraviolet radiation from a damaged lamp, see a doctor if symptoms of skin burns or eye irritation occur.

* Report any injuries from these sources to your state health department and to the Food and Drug Administration.

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February 6, 1978

ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

The Costs of Child Raising

About 8,600 babies are born each day in the U.S. In addition to the joy they bring their parents, each represents a bill of about \$54,000 payable over 18 years. Four years of college could add another \$8,500 to the tab, according to Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Mrs. Jordahl quotes these figures as the minimum to maintain a moderate standard of living. The cost of childbirth accounts for more than \$2,000 of this total. Figures from the Health Insurance Institute list hospital expenses for mother and child at nearly \$800, obstetrical and pediatric care at \$400, nursery furnishings and baby supplies at about \$700 and a maternity wardrobe for mother at more than \$250.

The first child in a family represents the biggest expense, Mrs. Jordahl says. Second and later children may cost only half as much in the early months because nursery supplies and the mother's maternity wardrobe could be used again.

* * * *

The Consumer Product Safety Commission will be looking at the safety of about 30 types of products during the next 18 months, according to Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota. Among the items scheduled for tests and evaluation are asbestos, power mowers, gas space heaters, communication antennas, public playground equipment and chlorofluorocarbons.

* * * *

A new home warranty act in Minnesota requires builders to warrant the structure for ten years against major structural defects, two years against plumbing, heating and electrical problems and one year against faulty workmanship and defective materials, according to Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota.

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February 13, 1978

Immediate release

SHELTERBELT TREES
MAY NEED PRUNING

Some windbreaks are composed of trees that have dense branching patterns, such as Siberian Elm. If this should be a problem, you will see drifting patterns similar to those when there are shrubs in the windbreak. For this, _____
(name)

recommends you prune the trees to a height of 3 or 4 feet and perhaps thin out the trees (if they are closer than six feet apart, remove every other tree) for maximum protection.

"Pruning and thinning the trees will give good results the first winter, but sprouting from wounds and stumps will decrease effectiveness by the next year," he cautions.

If you are thinking about planting a new windbreak or replacing an existing one, be sure to consider tree species before you plant. In the past, he says, Siberian Elm has been the most popular species, followed by green ash and poplars. The Siberian Elm is no longer recommended for windbreaks because of its dense branching and its high susceptibility to cropland sprays. Cottonwoods and other poplars give good protection, but may create problems by the falling branches and twigs. Green Ash is the species most recommended now, he added.

If you are considering planting a new windbreak or having problems with an existing one, contact your county extension agent for more information, he adds.

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(Source: Harold Scholten, Extension Forester, University of Minnesota)

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University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
February 13, 1978

Immediate release

CHECK CROPLAND
WINDBREAKS NOW

Check your field windbreak now while there is still snow on the ground, advises

_____, _____ county extension agent for
(name) (county)
_____.

"Winter is the best time of year to see if your windbreak is doing the job it was intended to do. By looking at the snow drift patterns next to your windbreak, you can tell whether you will need to make changes in it," he says.

When checking your windbreak, remember that a good windbreak should give ground protection for a distance 20 times the height of the trees in the windbreak. Thus, if your trees are 20 feet tall, your windbreak should protect the cropland for a distance of 400 feet.

Within this 400 feet from the windbreak, you should not see large drifts--only a smooth layer of snow equally distributed over the area. If you do see large drifts at points, you will need to plant new trees in the windbreak come spring, he adds.

And if you see snowdrifts next to the trees on both sides of the windbreak and within the tree row, your windbreak is too dense. Cut out some trees in the spring.

Should your windbreak have more than one row in it, you should narrow it down to just one row to increase your usable cropland. If this would make your windbreak too thin, you should just thin out the rows and consider planting a new windbreak to replace the old one, _____ says.
(name)

During the spring you will want to remove all shrubs that are in the windbreak. Shrubs hold in too much snow, leaving unprotected spots in the coverage areas.

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(Source: Harold Scholten, Extension Forester, University of Minnesota)

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SHELTERBELTS: WAY TO
REDUCE HEAT BILLS

In one fell swoop, you can minimize the miseries of winter-high heating bills and shoveling tons of snow.

According to Harold Scholten, extension forester at the University of Minnesota, planting a protective shelterbelt of trees around the home can reduce your heating costs by as much as 30 percent and dramatically cut down the amount of snow you have to shovel.

Homeowners who want to capitalize on nature's protective wrapping should be planning their shelterbelts now, Scholten says. "The cold weather months are the time for homeowners to get out the wish books for winter, nursery catalogs, and order trees and shrubs now to have for spring planting."

Planning the shelterbelt should not be taken lightly, Scholten cautions; shelterbelts can be aesthetically pleasing and may greatly add to the value of your home. Remember that the shelterbelt will be with you for years, so design it the way you want it before you plant.

Scholten points out two considerations for you to ponder before purchasing stock for his shelterbelt. You should think about the protection you want the shelterbelt to give and also the amount of space you have with which to work.

A well-designed shelterbelt will provide snow protection for an area approximately 15 to 20 times the height of the trees in it. And energy saving will be greater, the closer the trees are to the house.

Since trees require several years of growth before they reach maximum height, you may want to plant quick growing species such as poplars for immediate protection and slower growing species for more permanent protection. Species for more permanent protection include: white spruce, white cedar, green ash and other hardwood species.

add 1--shelterbelts

With this mixing of species, you can have some protection in a fairly short time, and maximum protection a little later, he adds. When the more permanent trees have grown enough to protect the home, the quick growing species can be cut down--perhaps for firewood.

If space is a problem, you may want to select species that provide maximum protection per tree such as the conifers. With these species, you would not need to plant as many rows to protect the homestead as you would with hardwood species.

Trees should be planted as soon as the ground is free from frost following directions on the tree tag. If you need more information to help you plan your shelterbelt, contact your county extension office, Scholten advises.

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ALFALFA SYMPOSIUM
TAILORED FOR FARMERS

The national alfalfa symposium scheduled March 7-8 at the Radisson South in Bloomington, Minnesota gives farmers the chance to hear nationally known speakers.

The program is entitled "Alfalfa--Energy, Protein and Nitrogen." It will feature over 40 forage experts, farmers with outstanding forage programs and industry people.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 7. However, advance registration is requested. The advance full conference registration fee is \$18, which includes the Wednesday (March 8) luncheon and a copy of the proceedings. Make checks payable to the University of Minnesota. More information is available from Richard Meronuck, Office of Special Programs, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108. Phone (612) 373-0725.

Speakers include H. Russell Conrad, dairy scientist from Ohio State University, who will speak on utilization of alfalfa protein in ruminants.

The banquet speaker is scheduled to be William D. Loub, from the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago. His topic will be alfalfa and drug metabolizing enzyme. Loub has done research on a compound found in alfalfa that has anti-cancer effects.

There will be round table, concurrent sessions on seeding and establishment, soil and water, and livestock feeding.

Topics for the seeding and establishment session include alfalfa establishment with herbicides, interseeding alfalfa into grass pastures and coating of alfalfa seed.

The soil and water session will include irrigation of alfalfa, keeping the soil fertile and application of liquid manure on alfalfa.

Livestock feeding topics include forage evaluation techniques and uses, pros and cons of alfalfa in the ration and overcoming the bloat potential of alfalfa.

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STUDY SHOWS SLOWER
RISE IN STATE
FARMLAND VALUES

Although value of Minnesota farmland sold in 1977 increased 19 percent over 1976 levels, it was the smallest annual percentage increase since 1972.

"This reflects some slowdown in the farmland market in several regions," say University of Minnesota agricultural economists Rodney Christianson and Philip M. Raup.

Values averaged \$794 per acre in 1977, an increase of \$127 per acre or 19 percent over 1976. Annual increases in Minnesota farmland values from 1972 to 1976 were 20, 42, 24, and 27 percent, respectively.

"Several prominent trends in land market activity in 1974 intensified in 1975 and 1976, then softened and even shifted direction in 1977," the economists say.

"For example, the reported sales price per acre of poor farmland declined in 1977 and the average price paid for improved land (with buildings) was once again higher than that paid for farmland without buildings."

Overall, farmland values have more than tripled since grain prices moved significantly higher in late 1972 following the Russian wheat purchases. Average prices were \$794 in 1977 vs. \$248 in 1972.

By district, here are the estimated 1977 values per acre, along with the change since 1976.

Southwest, \$1316, up \$210; southeast, \$1027, up \$171; west central, \$730, up \$106; east central, \$415, up \$66; northwest, \$427, up \$49; and northeast, \$279, up \$69.

The southwestern quarter of Minnesota contains most of the best farmland in the state, but some of its areas also have the most climatic risk. In 1976, parts of western Minnesota experienced the driest summer ever recorded.

To test the drought's impact, the southwestern quarter of the state was divided in three areas on the basis of variability in crop yields over time. The high-risk farming comprises a group of nine west central counties with large crop yield fluctuations from year to year, due mainly to drought. In contrast, the low-risk farming area consists of a block of nine counties in south central Minnesota containing the highest priced farmland in the state.

add 1--study shows

Farmland in the low-risk counties averaged considerably more than double the price paid for land in the high-risk group from 1974 to 1976. In 1977 the differential between the two areas approached three-fold, with land prices increasing 21 percent in the low-risk block while rising only one percent in the high risk counties.

The slowdown in the 1977 land market in west central Minnesota stems from the combination of drought and low farm prices over the past two years. "An analysis of the date by type of buyer and quality of land purchased reveals not only further slowdowns, but several instances of significant land price declines over the past year," the economists say.

During 1973-76, the Red River Valley was the most active part of the Minnesota farmland market. During this period, average price paid per acre climbed from \$201 to \$733, an annual rate of increase of 79, 49, and 37 percent, respectively. From July 1976 to July 1977, this rate slowed to 6 percent with the resultant sales price standing at \$780 per acre in 1977 in the Red River Valley.

Raup and Christianson's report is entitled "The Minnesota Rural Real Estate Market in 1977." It is published in the Minnesota Agricultural Economist, No. 595 January, 1978. Copies are available from the Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108.

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IN BRIEF. . . .

Selling Farmland. Retirement is the most frequent reason for selling land in Minnesota. It accounted for about two-fifths of all decisions to sell in 1977, according to a study by University of Minnesota agricultural economists Rodney Christianson and Philip M. Raup.

Fewer farmsellers left farming for another job last year. The figure was 15 percent in 1977; down from 20 percent over the past five years. Departures from farming are still substantial in the east central district (29 percent of all sales) where agriculture depends heavily on milk and livestock production. A significant change from previous years occurred in the west central district where sales due to leaving agriculture increased from 8 percent in 1975 to 17 percent in 1977, possibly another reflection of drought conditions and falling crop prices.

* * * *

Land Buyers. Investor land buyers paid less on the average for Minnesota farmland in 1977 than they did in 1976. Figures are \$582 per acre in 1977 vs. \$592 in 1976. "These slightly lower prices, together with an increased market share for investor buyers in 1977, may indicate a future softening of prices paid by other buyers as well," say University of Minnesota agricultural economists Rodney Christianson and Philip M. Raup. Expansion buyers led all other buyers in average price paid in 1977, both statewide and in all districts except northeastern Minnesota.

Operating farmers, expansion buyers and investor land buyers were the three classes of buyers identified in the study.

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ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

MAKING OIL HEATERS
MORE EFFICIENT

Want to improve the efficiency of your oil-fired furnace? The National Bureau of Standards says that an oil burning furnace with pipes or ducts coming out like octopus legs or even a furnace that is more than ten years old could be wasting oil.

They suggest that if a service technician is able to get your burner to work at only 60 percent efficiency, it may pay you to buy a new unit. A new burner should get at least 75 percent efficiency, which means that 75 percent of the heat from the oil goes into heating the house and not up the chimney. The Bureau says the difference in efficiency could save you 20 percent of your fuel bill.

The National Bureau of Standards along with the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency has published a booklet on things the consumer can do to help cut fuel costs and adjustments the service technician can make to do the same. For a free copy of "How to Improve the Efficiency of Your Oil-Fired Furnace," send a postcard to the Consumer Information Center, Dept. 602F, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

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PROPOSAL WOULD
LOWER STATE TAXES

Death and taxes, the old adage goes, are two things nobody can escape. But if the governor has his way, the taxes Minnesotans pay next year will decrease.

According to Arley Waldo, extension economist at the University of Minnesota, the governor has proposed a tax cut plan that will total some \$102 million next year. "The biggest chunk of this total will come from a reduction in the state income tax rate, with a projected \$82 million being sliced off of the existing state revenue from this cut alone."

While this proposed cut in the tax rate would mean a reduction in everyone's taxes, the size of reduction would depend on whether the taxpayer is married or single and whether there are one or two wage-earners in the family, Waldo explains.

Additionally, special tax relief would be given to an estimated 100,000 Minnesotans in the "working poor" group. Under the proposal, the married couple with four dependents would be given credit against tax liability if they earned less than \$8,900 annually. Currently, the cut off point is \$7,800 annual income.

Also included in the governor's proposal is the elimination of the payroll tax, which is currently applied to employers who have annual payrolls in excess of \$250,000, at a rate of \$2.00 per thousand dollars payroll. This section of the governor's proposal would cut state revenues by an estimated \$11.2 million annually.

Other items in the proposal call for simplified itemized deductions, which would decrease state revenues by \$1.6 million dollars each year, and the elimination of sales tax on newsprint and ink, yielding a decrease in state revenue of \$1.1 million.

According to statistics computed in 1976, Minnesota ranks eighth of all states in taxes collected from individuals per \$1,000 of personal income. "On first glance, the statistics indicate that taxes are high in Minnesota, but one needs to look at the relative costs (taxes) for the benefits (services provided by the state) before he can ascertain whether taxes are too high.

"Currently, the Minnesota Tax Study Commission is pondering the proposal--looking down the road to see just how the proposed tax cuts will affect the state's business climate," Waldo says.

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ATT: Extension Home Economists

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WHAT DO SEALS OF APPROVAL
ON CONSUMER PRODUCTS MEAN?

You've seen them more times than you can count--the UL label hanging from an electrical appliance or cord or the Good Housekeeping or Parents' Magazine Seals on household items. Familiar, yes. But do you know what they mean?

Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota, says many consumers misunderstand the seals of approval. For example, the UL--Underwriters' Laboratories--seal is not a claim for quality or performance. It means that the manufacturers voluntarily submitted the product for safety testing by Underwriters' Laboratories, a nonprofit organization. About half of the products tested for UL approval fail the first time.

If the product passes the UL investigation, inspectors follow up at the factory to be sure the manufacturer is producing and checking the product to keep safety standards high.

By contrast, the Good Housekeeping and Parents' Magazine Seals are awarded only to manufacturers who advertise in the magazines. Testing is not required for these seals, Mrs. Jordahl says even though some products are tested by private firms. The Good Housekeeping seal offers some assurance that the products are good and the claims truthful. Both Good Housekeeping and Parents' Magazine offer money-back guarantees for the cost of the product if an item proves defective or someone is injured as a result.

To evaluate seals on products, Mrs. Jordahl suggests asking yourself or the retailer:

- * Who is making and approving the product?
- * What tests were run on it?
- * What did the tests prove and what does the certification include?
- * What guarantee is implied by the seal and how long is it effective?

Unlike product testing organizations, the Better Business Bureau concentrates on misleading and deceptive business practices. Its bureaus around the country hear complaints, give factual information, act as mediator between consumer and business, dismiss businesses from their membership when they continue to abuse and alert the public about unfair trade practices or deceptive advertising. The Better Business Bureau cannot give legal advice, endorse products, recommend one company over another or judge price fairness.

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ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

MHEA CONFERENCE
TO FOCUS ON
AGING, HANDICAPPED

"Developing: Insights to Aging and Potentials for Handicapped" is the theme of this year's convention of the Minnesota Home Economics Association to be held April 7 and 8 at the vocational-technical institute in White Bear Lake.

Maggie Kuhn, national convener of the Gray Panthers, will give the keynote address. Workshops on the second day of the convention will explore such topics as housing for the handicapped, stresses of aging, handicapped children and the legal and business aspects of aging.

Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist, and Sherri Johnson, extension textiles and clothing specialist, are among the workshop leaders. Others are social workers, occupational therapists, consultants to schools and housing and health programs and other University faculty members.

* * *

WHAT'S YOUR FOOD
SHOPPING PROFILE?

There are three basic types of food shoppers, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service. In a survey of 1,100 shoppers they found:

* the largest group (39 percent) is generally satisfied with the process of buying and preparing food. These shoppers tend to buy favorite brands although they may cost more and they report enjoying shopping and cooking.

* a slightly smaller group (32 percent) focus first on efficient use of time and money. They view shopping as necessary but not particularly enjoyable and they spend minimal time on it. For them, price is often the main factor in purchasing.

* a third group (18 percent) falls into the "careful shopper" category. These consumers plan menus in advance, make out shopping lists, buy advertised specials, comparison shop and read nutritional labels.

About another 11 percent of consumers did not fit clearly into any of the three groups, according to the survey.

* * *

- over -

add 1--food shopping profile

BEVERAGE HABITS
ARE SHIFTING

We each drink more than 180 gallons of liquid annually. This is about one-half gallon daily or about the recommended amount of fluids.

While we're still drinking about the same amount that we did 10 years ago, the types of beverages have changed. Currently we consume:

* less water (from 67 to 56 gallons), coffee (from 37 to 31.5 gallons) and milk (from 26 to 24.5 gallons).

* more soft drinks (from 22 to 31.5 gallons), beer (from 16.5 to 21.5 gallons), tea (from 6.5 to 21.6 gallons), liquor (from 1.6 to 2 gallons) and wine (from 1 gallon to about 1.75 gallons).

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FARM PROGRAM WORKSHEET
AVAILABLE FROM EXTENSION

Budget worksheets are available in Minnesota county extension offices to help farmers analyze how the 1978 farm program pertains to their own operations.

Participation by some farmers helps reduce total U.S. wheat and feedgrain production, so all farmers stand to gain due to higher grain prices. But to evaluate the potential economic effect of participation in the 1978 set-aside options on their own farms, each operator and landlord should examine the economic trade-offs in their own situations.

Paul Hasbargen, extension economist at the University of Minnesota, says that three main factors will influence whether most farmers participate:

--Type of farm. Due to the likely size of deficiency payments, wheat and barley producers are more apt to participate in the 1978 Federal farm program than corn and soybean producers. Livestock farms where grain production is used for feed are even less apt to find program participation attractive, say Hasbargen and Earl Fuller, another U of M extension economist.

--Market price expectation. Next to farm type, the most important factor is price that the farmer expects in the open market a year from now. "If a corn producer expects that he will be able to market his corn at a price equal to or better than the announced loan level for his county, he probably will not find the program attractive."

--Storage availability. This is not important if the market price is at or above the loan so that grain is sold on the cash market in either option. But if the cash market is expected to be under the loan, year-around storage will be required in order for the program participator to take advantage of the high loan price.

add 1--farm program worksheet

In this situation, adequate home storage will be less costly than elevator storage. If elevator storage is the only alternative, it could tip the economic advantage away from participation in the corn program even though the open market corn price is expected to be less than the local loan rate (about \$1.90 in most southern Minnesota counties). Increased payments in the long-term (three-year) storage program will encourage additional investment in on-farm storage facilities.

Other factors could be important enough to tip the scales in some situations. These include:

--Land quality. A wide range in land quality on the same farm may be a factor affecting participation. "If there is a wide variation in land productivity, there's little doubt that the less productive land will go into set-aside," the economists say.

--Set-aside costs. For example, if fall plowing is not permitted, western Minnesota farmers will incur extra costs due to lower crop yields the following year. Such an increase in the costliness of the cover crop requirement would tip the economic evaluation on many corn-bean and wheat farms (with small wheat acreages) in favor of non-participation.

--Expected yield vs. farm program yield. The greater the difference between the "farm program yield" assigned by the local ASC committee and the farmer's expected yield, the greater the odds that non-participation will be more profitable. If you have proof of higher actual yields, you can get your "normal" increased.

--Other factors include labor and machine time pressures (the operator who is under-mechanized will be more interested than the one who has more than adequate planting and harvesting machine capacity), the price risk factor (the participator knows he can count on a market floor price equal to the local government loan rate), and the disaster provisions in the program that should be of more value to farmers in the high risk production areas.

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RAW MILK--DRINK AT YOUR OWN RISK

Some natural food fadists have been advocating the use of raw milk rather than pasteurized milk. But according to a University of Minnesota dairy scientist, the fad may have potentially harmful effects to those who switch to the use of raw milk.

"When Louis Pasteur's process was introduced to the dairy industry, infant deaths declined dramatically. The reason for the sudden decline in infant deaths was the fact that milk in the raw state often carried pathogens (germs) whereas the milk processed using Pasteur's method carried none," says Vern Packard, Extension dairy products specialist.

While one should not infer that all raw milk carries disease, the pasteurization process eliminates all question regarding the safety of the milk. The potential risk of drinking contaminated milk must be considered because of the dreaded diseases it can carry. Among the more serious diseases that may be transmitted by raw milk are polio, scarlet fever, undulant fever, tuberculosis and paratyphoid fever, Packard says.

"It should be pointed out that the pasteurization process does not add anything to the food, but rather it is simply a process of assuring the consumers that the milk they buy does not carry any disease. The nutritional value of pasteurized milk is almost identical with raw milk--but without the potential pathogens," Packard says.

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PARITY IS NOT
GOOD MEASURE
OF FARM INCOME

"The parity price concept is not very useful for measuring the economic well-being of farmers," says Paul Hasbargen, extension economist at the University of Minnesota.

"The parity price ratio is not a measure of the net income of farmers. Many people interpret '100 percent parity' as 'fair income.' But it is only a price comparison, not an income measure," Hasbargen says.

The parity concept was set up over 50 years ago and measures what has happened to the price of farm commodities compared with the price of things farmers buy. But Hasbargen says this leaves out one important thing--the quantity variable.

Net income results from the price of the product times quantity sold, minus the price of inputs times quantity of inputs. Parity compares only the two sets of prices--the prices received for farm products and the prices paid for inputs.

The quantity produced changes from one period to the next due to better seed, better fertilization or weed control or even better weather. However, the parity price measure "completely misses" that dimension of farm income.

"A good example is the drought that caused many Minnesota farmers to have less than half a crop in 1976. Although the parity price index was lower in 1977 than in 1976, net farm income in Minnesota was much higher in 1977 than in 1976," said Hasbargen.

Per acre crop yields have about doubled in the past 60 years, and farm size has doubled. So although the parity price ratio is only 67 percent of what it was in 1910-14, average net farm incomes are substantially higher than they were then.

"Perhaps more important is that incomes of farmers are much higher relative to non-farmers than they were 60 years ago. They are higher than they were in the 1920's, the 1930's, the 1940's, the 1950's and the 1960's."

Farm income is down from the good farm income years of 1973 and 1974. The peak year--1973--was the only time in history when farm families enjoyed higher per capita incomes than non-farmers. The ratio of per capita income of farm families from all sources vs. the per capita income of non-farm families has dropped back to about 80 percent. "But this is still better than it was in any year before the 1970's," Hasbargen says.

add 1--parity is not good measure

A more meaningful goal could be to have the farm bill support prices at levels high enough to bring farm income back to 100 percent parity with non-farmers. Part of the problem in setting higher farm prices, says Hasbargen, is that all farmers do not have the same production costs.

"Some farmers have larger farms, better soils and some are better managers. Current target prices are high enough to cover all production costs including a normal return to land for the better managers on average size or larger farms.

"So any increase in price supports will only encourage the better farmers to bid land prices higher than they already are. This will make it even more difficult for a young person to get started without a lot of help.

"And the small farmer who produces very little on a marginal farm is not going to get much more income because he just doesn't have enough to sell. On the other hand, the producer with a large business will get a large increase in annual income."

The government is also concerned about being able to meet competition in foreign trade if crop prices are propped too high.

"I don't think we need to be concerned about small changes in crop prices. But if you're talking about increasing prices to 100 percent parity, there would be reason for real concern in meeting foreign competition. Some have suggested a two price system with foreign shipments subsidized at lower prices, but other countries object to that.

"I see two concerns faced by Congress and the administration as they consider higher price supports for farm products," Hasbargen says.

"First, they know that if they raise farm prices much above the levels in the Agricultural Act of 1977, this will give substantial increases in earnings and wealth to the farmers who are above average in size and management ability, while giving little help to the small, low income farmer. Secondly, they see possible undesirable ramifications in the area of foreign trade."

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PLAN TO CONTROL
CORN ROOTWORMS

You can expect infestations of corn rootworms if you farm in the southern half of Minnesota and plant corn in fields that were in corn the year before. There may also be localized infestations in other parts of the state where corn is grown.

John Lofgren, extension entomologist at the University of Minnesota, offers these tips for controlling corn rootworms.

--Do as good a job as you can in all aspects of corn production. Select hybrids adapted for your area, maintain adequate fertility as determined by soil tests and cropping history and use the best methods of seedbed preparation and other cultural practices for your soils. Plant early and reduce weed competition.

--If rotation fits your farm plans, rotate crops to avoid continuous corn. Since rootworm eggs are laid in corn fields in the fall, practically all infestations are in corn following corn. Sometimes an early frost or severe drought may cause the adults to move out of the corn before they have laid eggs. This may result in localized infestations in first-year corn, especially following soybeans or small grain.

--Use insecticides in fields likely to be infested.

In some cases, an insecticide may give inadequate control after several years of continual use. If you observe this, you may get better results by switching to other recommended products.

All insecticides should be used at a full pound of active ingredient per acre on a 40-inch row basis, even though the label may indicate a wide range of rates.

Research in other states has shown that late planted fields often escape serious infestation. But under Minnesota conditions, planting this late is not a good practice. Corn planted after June 1 probably will not be economically infested, but the yield potential will be reduced due to the shorter growing season.

More detailed information is available in a newly-revised fact sheet from county extension offices. Ask for Entomology Fact Sheet No. 14, 1978, "Controlling Corn Rootworms."

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REGENTS AWARD PRESENTED TO
UM AGRICULTURAL ALUMNUS

A special commendation for outstanding achievement has been awarded by University of Minnesota Regents to an alumnus of UM's Institute of Agriculture.

The award was presented to Hanumappa Ramappa Arakeri, vice-chancellor of University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, India, February 27.

Arakeri received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in agronomy from University of Minnesota in 1948 and 1949, respectively. Since then he has served a variety of positions in his native country of India. From 1950 to 1954, he was professor of agronomy, College of Agriculture, Poona, India. After that, he served for two years as sugarcane specialist in charge of sugarcane research and development at Bombay State, India.

From 1956 to 1957, he was deputy director of agriculture of the Mysore Division of Mysore State, India. Subsequent to that he served as joint director of agricultural extension, and joint director of agricultural research and education at Mysore State.

In 1965, he assumed the post of director of agriculture at Mysore State and held that position until 1970. From 1970 to 1973, Arakeri was associated with the National Commission on Agriculture in New Delhi. And in 1973, he was appointed vice-chancellor of the University of Agricultural Sciences in Bangalore, India.

During his distinguished career, Arakeri has authored or coauthored five books, including Agriculture in India which has been translated into three languages.

Arakeri's career in research started during his teaching assignments. His early work was on crop and weather relationships and botanical and agronomic aspects of vegetable crops. His studies on elephant foot led to understanding of the factors responsible for non-seeding of seeds.

Upon return to India from University of Minnesota in 1949, Arakeri pioneered an extensive program on chemical weed control. His work led to formulation of chemical methods of weed control in several crops, particularly sugarcane.

For his achievements in research, teaching and extension, the Farmers' Association of India awarded him the National Award for 1976.

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Department of Information
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Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
February 27, 1978

Immediate release

LAND PURCHASE REQUIRES
ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES,
POTENTIAL BENEFITS

It's no secret that land prices have skyrocketed in recent years. In fact, statistics show that Minnesota farm land values have nearly tripled in the past five years. But what does that mean to the potential buyer?

According to _____, _____ county
(name) (county)
extension agent for _____, land buyers should look long and hard before they make a purchase. "The potential buyer should look at his track record and decide whether he really needs to expand his farm or just do a better job of managing the acreage he has. He might want to consider renting as an alternative to buying more land."

Having considered these important questions, the farmer who still wants to buy more land should carefully analyze his potential purchase. _____
(name)
outlines several ways to estimate the value of the land parcel under consideration.

One way to evaluate the potential benefits of the land purchase is to use what is called the market value approach. In using this approach, he explains, the buyer compares the farm under consideration with similar farms that recently have been sold. Since no two farms are exactly alike, the buyer should select farms that are similar to the farm being appraised in location, size, soil productivity capacity, and buildings and improvements. Additionally, he adds, the buyer should make sure the reported sale was bona fide and was completed.

A second way to evaluate the market value of a land parcel is to use the inventory approach. With this method the buyer inventories and assigns a value to each resource on the farm he is considering. This includes placing a separate value on each type of land that can be classified. Each building and improvement is given a replacement value, less depreciation, including an obsolescence charge, he explains.

The third approach is called the net income capitalization approach. This approach, he says, uses estimates of the average annual net income that can be expected from the farm being evaluated. One way to do this is to look at how much annual income the buyer could expect if he were managing the farm. The other way is to compute the farm's value in terms of how much income would be produced if the farm were rented.

add 1--land purchase

Once the potential buyer determines how much the land is worth, he is likely to ask himself whether he can afford to buy the land, especially since cash returns on land investments are likely to be lower than market interest rates. "If he has enough cash on hand to make a large down payment, or if he has excess earnings from his current farm or from non-farm sources, he may want to go ahead with the purchase."

Nonetheless, he adds, the potential buyer should consider alternative investments that may provide a higher return on investment before he makes his final judgment.

For those who are contemplating a land purchase, _____
(name)

suggests they contact the county extension office for a copy of Buying Farm Land, extension Bulletin 404, 1978.

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(Source--Paul Hasbargen, extension economist, University of Minnesota)

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IN BRIEF.....

Grade A Milk. In the last 10 years, grade A milk production in Minnesota has increased from about 17 percent to 46 percent of the total milk produced. However, sharp increases in grade A production have tapered off in recent years. Since price incentives are lacking, the continued trend to grade A may remain sluggish, says Vern Packard, extension dairy products specialist at the University of Minnesota. Of the 28,680 dairy farms in Minnesota, 8600 are on grade A.

* * * *

Dairy Consumption. Consumption of low-fat milk products and cheese are both up, although total fluid milk consumption has gone down over the past 20 years. "This consumer trend to low-fat milk products should be vigorously exploited by the dairy industry," says Vern Packard, extension dairy products specialist at the University of Minnesota. He says the best possible future of the dairy industry rests in product development, new uses for dairy ingredients and pushing dairy products in restaurants and fast food outlets.

* * * *

Culling Cows. Only one out of three dairy cows is culled voluntarily. The others are "forced" culling problems due to reproductive, mastitis and udder problems. There are large culling differences between herds that are associated with cow care and management, says Joe Conlin, extension dairy specialist at the University of Minnesota. Dairywomen can benefit from checking back to see why cows are leaving the herd. This will help identify management strengths and areas needing improvement. The best kind of culling is when the dairy farmer makes the decision. The more cows that can be culled for low profitability, particularly low production, the better. Ask for a copy of the new publication, "Culling Dairy Cows," available from your county extension office.

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ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

WARM WATER RINSE
WASTES ENERGY

If you're setting your automatic washer for a warm rinse cycle, you're wasting energy, according to Wanda Olson, extension household equipment specialist at the University of Minnesota. Hot and warm water have some cleaning advantages for the wash cycle, but for rinsing, cold water does the job as well and it saves about eight cents on each laundry load.

Mrs. Olson says many consumers don't realize how costly water heating can be. Next to the furnace, the water heater is the most energy-hungry appliance in the average home. It takes about 14 percent of total home energy. This is five times less than that required for home heating but four or five times more than used for cooking, refrigeration or lighting.

Based on rates of four cents per kilowatt hour and heating water from 55 degrees to 140 degrees F., a hot wash/warm rinse laundry load in a 20 gallon washer will cost about 25 cents. You'll pay about 17 cents for either hot wash/cold rinse or warm wash/warm rinse in the same machine. A warm wash/cold rinse cycle will cost nine cents. In each case, the electricity to operate the washer motor is about one cent of the total cost.

Mrs. Olson says warm water settings deliver half cold and half hot water. If you have your water heater set low (110 degrees F.) to save energy, your half and half mix for warm washing may be only 80 degrees, much cooler than clothing manufacturers recommend for a warm wash. If your water heater is set low, you will need to use the hot water setting on your washing machine to get water that is in the warm range.

In winter, Minnesota tap water is often colder than 55 degrees. To the person doing laundry, this can mean two things Mrs. Olson says. First, warm wash settings may be cooler than the manufacturer specifies and, second, it will take more energy and thus cost more to heat the water to the warm or hot range.

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University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
March 1978

The University of Minnesota
including the Agricultural
Extension Service is an equal
opportunity educator and employer.

SPECIAL SHORT COURSE SCHEDULE (April - September 1978)

- April 1 Meats Up-Dating, Meat Science Lab, St. Paul Campus. For foods educators who desire to stay current on the latest topics concerning meat.*GW
- April 3 Rural Landscaping Short Course, Lambertson Exp. Station. For persons interested in landscaping farm homes.*RM
- April 4-6 Home Sewage Treatment Workshop, Grand Rapids. For county sanitarians, zoning officers, contractors, county planners, public health inspectors and building inspectors.*GW
- April 4,5,6,7 Township Officers Short Course, April 4, Holiday Inn, Fergus Falls; April 5, AVTI, Detroit Lakes; April 6, Auditorium, Thief River Falls; April 7, Rainbow Inn, Grand Rapids. To help officers understand their roles and responsibilities and provide them with technical knowledge and updated reference materials for the township officers handbook.*GW
- April 7,8 Quality Assurance Workshop: Chef's Food Preparation Workers' Course, April 7-8, St. Paul Student Center. Directed at kitchen operations, the course includes discussion of Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota sanitation regulations and how to write quality assured, microbiologically safe recipe procedures.*CC
- April 7,8,10, 11,12,13,17,18 20,24,25,27, May 1,8 Quality Assurance Workshops: Owner/Manager Course, April 7,8, South West State University, Marshall; April 11,12, St. Paul; April 10,17,24, May 1,8, Golden Valley; April 13,20,27, Richfield; April 18,25, Duluth. The fifteen hour course emphasizes Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota Department of Health sanitation regulations and food microbiology.*CC
- April 7 Food Day, 1978, McGuire's Inn, St. Paul. For home economists, home economics educators and consumers interested in current topics and controversies related to food science and nutrition.*CC

*For further information call Office of Special Programs

CN--Curtis Norenberg	612-373-0725
RM--Richard Meronuck	"
GW--Gerald Wagner	"
EA--Eugene Anderson	"
CC--Chere Coggins	"

Page 2 - Special Short Course Schedule

- April 8 Annual Spring Clinic for Horsemen, Animal Science -- Veterinary Medicine Building, University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Educational programs on subjects of current interest to horsemen. For horsemen, owners, breeders, saddle club members, 4-H project members, stable owners and managers, and others.*GW
- April 8 Roadsides as a Natural Resources, Classroom Office Building, St. Paul Campus. To develop a roadside management plan focusing on flora and fauna which will best serve the public interest.*EA
- April 11,18,25,
May 2,9,16,23 1978 Consumer Housing Short Course -- A Place to Live: Building your New Home, St. Cloud, Minnesota. To provide consumers anticipating building or buying a house with information that contributes to rational decision making.*CC
- April 12 Food Service: Teaching Tools and Techniques, Student Center, St. Paul Campus. To assist those individuals responsible for training food service employees to determine the most effective instructional tools and techniques, use and evaluate these techniques.*CC
- April 13 Annual College of Home Economics Conference--"Changing Consumption Patterns: Scaling Up or Down?", McNeal Hall, St. Paul Campus. To facilitate dialogue among business leaders, public policy makers, community agency representatives and University faculty on the questions and issues implied by a changing resource base.*CC
- April 15 Upper Midwest Trout Symposium, Classroom Office Building, St. Paul Campus. A forum for concerned trout anglers and resource managers.*EA
- April 21 Maynard Speece Appreciation Dinner, Marriott Inn, Bloomington. To honor Maynard Speece for his contribution to Minnesota agriculture.*EA
- April 23-26 Minnesota FFA Convention and Leadership Conference, St. Paul Campus. To promote a learning experience for vocational agriculture students and FFA members.*CN
- April 25 Nature Photography Workshop, Wildflower Photography, Student Center, St. Paul Campus. For amateur photographers and naturalists interested in recording the natural world with a camera.*EA
- April 26 Tree Injection Workshop, Lignason Short Course, Leamington Hotel, Minneapolis. For general public. General information on tree injection techniques.*RM
- April 29 Peat Symposium, Classroom Office Building, St. Paul Campus. An examination of Minnesota's peat resource.*EA
- May 3 Minnesota Agriculture, Dakota County. A workshop to enable secondary school teachers to become acquainted with modern agricultural production.*EA
- May 3 Public Health Conference for Veterinarians, Rm. 135, Vet Science Animal Science Building, St. Paul Campus. Program will emphasize two areas: occupational health - the vet and his employees and pets and the family.*GW

Page 3 - Special Short Course Schedule

- May 19-21 Minnesota State Fire School, St. Paul Campus. For volunteer and paid fire department personnel, city officials and interested government and industry personnel who deal in fire safety, prevention, control and rescue and first aid work.*EA
- June 6 Gisela Konopka Retirement Day, Radisson Downtown Hotel, Minneapolis. A public symposium on current topics in youth development and a reception to honor Dr. Konopka on her retirement.*CC
- June 19-23 Quality Assurance Workshops: Educator's Course, Student Center, St. Paul Campus. A Quality Assurance educator's course for trainers of multiple units food service operations and/or educator/consultants.*CC
- July 17-20 Agricultural Education Seminar, Radisson South Hotel, Bloomington. For instructors and administrators of vocational and technical educational programs in agriculture.*CN
- August 2-6 7th Annual Minnesota Dairy Study Tour. For dairy farmers, spouses, and others interested in learning about the feeding, breeding, housing marketing and management of dairy enterprises in the Seattle area extending from Ronier Park to the Canadian border. Also an opportunity to see the scenic wonders of the Pacific Northwest.*GW
- August 7,8,9 Vocational Home Economics Update, Marriott Inn, Bloomington, Minn. To gain awareness of and commitment to comprehensive home economics programming at all educational levels.*CC
- September 14-15 Sanitarian's Conference, Sheraton Inn Northwest, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. To discuss a variety of developments in dairy and food plant sanitation and field work.*CC
- September 21 Extension Homemakers' Day on Campus, McNeal Hall, St. Paul Campus. A day of exploration in the College of Home Economics to probe, question, offer comment on the education offered by the College of Home Economics.*GW
- September 18,19 Thirty-ninth Annual Minnesota Nutrition Conference, Thunderbird Motel, Bloomington, Minnesota. This is a North Central regional conference of animal nutritionists for the purpose of presenting research and current information on animal and poultry nutrition in two symposia and a number of supplementary topics. For animal nutritionists representing producers, industry, universities, research, adult vo-ag instructors, farm editors and technical feed salt representatives.*GW
- September Quality Assurance Workshops: Owner/Manager Course (specific dates and locations to be announced). The eight hour course emphasizes Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota Department of Health sanitation regulations and food microbiology.*CC
- September Quality Assurance Workshops: Chef's Food Preparation Workers Course (specific dates and locations to be announced). Directed at kitchen operations, the course includes discussion of Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota sanitation regulations and how to write quality assured, microbiologically safe

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Tel. (612) 373-0710
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POWER LINE AND FARM PROTESTS TYPIFY SOCIAL MOVEMENT

Recent farm group protests, the miners' strike on Minnesota's Iron Range and the coal workers strike spotlight a recurring concern of citizen protest movements, say three rural sociologists at the University of Minnesota.

Protesting groups often find that the leadership of established organizations is oriented toward national issues rather than toward new forms of local protest and action based on local concerns.

George A. Donohue, Phillip J. Tichenor and Clarice N. Olien say that basic conflict between local groups and the growth of distant, centralized power is mirrored in the organization of farm and labor groups. For example, in recent iron miners' strikes in northern Minnesota, there was an open struggle for rank-and-file support between local and national leaders. The union's national president favored a management offer while local leaders rallied members and differed sharply with the national heads on a crucial incentive pay issue.

Many of the same factors are present in the American Agriculture Movement, the rural sociologists say. "Recent withholding efforts largely have been treated by silence, scepticism, lukewarm support and occasionally outright opposition from leaders of established traditional farm organizations and governmental agriculture agencies."

This is not a new phenomenon, according to the rural sociologists. "When the National Farmers Organization (NFO) was formed some 20 years ago, it

add one--power line

received little encouragement from the existing Farm Bureau and Farmers' Union, just as the Farmers' Union was not supported by the Farm Bureau earlier. NFO withholding actions in subsequent years lacked support from the older organizations. Today, the American Agriculture Movement receives little more public encouragement from the NFO and others than the NFO received in its early days."

While political leaders may claim that striking farmers are "without leaders" who can be identified and approached, this could be merely an approach to deny legitimacy to the farm protest action, the social scientists say. When a protest group is struggling with a powerful national organization, the group seeks to establish equal strength at the national level. Farm and labor movements like social movements in general ultimately seek political strength. To do this, however, they must unite and centralize power from groups and segments with similar but rarely identical concerns.

Donohue, Tichenor and Olien say, "Just as union members may contend that what is good for the industry is not necessarily good for workers, they may eventually discover that what is good for the national union is not necessarily good for the locals under all conditions. Here are the seeds of discontent and the basis for new grass roots organizations."

Protest group leaders often become "marginal persons" as their organizations grow. The rural sociologists explain that these leaders act as liaison between their structure and others in the system, thus becoming marginal to both. For example, a person negotiating union interests with corporate executives must represent union interests while understanding the corporate perspective. To deal with executives, union representatives frequently adopt the same styles, manners of speech and perspectives held by those with whom they are bargaining. Settlements represent a compromise and thus only a partial resolution of the problem as the locals see it.

add two--power line

News coverage of protests often casts local action in an unfavorable light, the rural sociologists say. News interviews show angry young union members speaking with the accents of their rural areas about the differences between what the locals and the national leaders were seeking. By contrast, the union leader, interviewed in his office, may give the impression of being patiently tolerant of unruly and undisciplined local groups.

Left without effective representation at the state or national level, citizen action groups often try to create leadership within their own midsts and to use other resources available to them. These sometimes include the news media. Protest groups in both rural and urban areas develop techniques for gaining the attention of the public. In recent power line protests, surveys in two communities indicated that newspapers were the primary information source for all but the most directly affected persons.

In taking their case to the public through newspapers and television, protest groups such as those opposing the power line often seek to bypass the traditional leadership groups that do not support them. The rural sociologists observe that in several episodes in recent years, community leaders found what seems to be unanticipated organization among groups opposed to such things as generating plants, power lines and waste disposal sites. The news media generally respond to organized activity in proportion to how well organized it is. For example, in a comparison of four communities, there was more newspaper coverage of the power line issue and more public awareness in the two communities with more countervailing organization.

Leaders of existing organizations sometimes are bewildered by this publicity and the organized activity underlying it. In the power line case, directors of local electric cooperatives have in some cases been surprised that farmers oppose a cooperative's efforts to provide more electricity for Minnesota. To the power line protesters, however, the rural cooperative

add three--power line

ideology is irrelevant. The fact that opposing farmers generally refer to the cooperatives as "the power companies" may reflect the differences between traditional agricultural leadership and the interests of contemporary protesting groups according to Donohue, Tichenor and Olien.

Protests are part of continuous social movements, they say. No change in the structure should be viewed as permanent. Each is an adjustment mechanism which will need future adjustment itself to continue as a vital part of the organization. New problems will create discrepancies between the institution and constituent groups with specific problems. From the time an organization is established, its tendency is always to become more structured and rigid. And with this tendency it becomes less able to deal with the changing pattern of social problems.

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March 3, 1978

Immediate release

SPECIALIST GIVES
TREE PLANTING TIPS

Spring is tree planting time. Here are some tips from Harold Scholten, extension forester at the University of Minnesota.

--The best time to plant is early spring as soon as the frost is out of the ground. Trees will then get maximum benefit from spring rains.

--If the soil where the tree is to be planted is very sandy or a heavy clay, replace it with a good black loamy soil. Most trees prefer a moist, well-drained soil, Scholten says.

--Small seedlings grow into large trees, so don't plant too close to buildings (branches next to buildings will die out). Do not plant too close to sidewalks and drives, since roots will eventually heave concrete. And, don't plant under shade of larger trees.

--When planting, leave soil around the tree in a saucer-shape so water will soak in around roots.

--Give the tree a good watering right after planting, then water periodically.

--Mulching will conserve moisture, even during dry periods. A bushel of ground cobs or a mixture of sawdust and wood shavings around each tree will do a good job. You won't need to water mulched trees as often as unmulched trees.

--If you want a tall, straight, well formed tree, do some corrective pruning to eliminate forks and double leaders while the tree is still young.

A free publication is available that has diagrams and additional tips. Ask your county extension office for a copy of Minnesota Tree Line No. 3, "How to Plant a Tree." Copies are also available from the Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108.

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Immediate release

ECONOMICS OF
LAND SET-ASIDE

Some people criticize the 1978 wheat and feedgrain programs because there is no explicit payment in them for setting aside land, says Agricultural Economist Earl I. Fuller of the University of Minnesota.

"But as an example you could argue that there is a substantial payment for setting aside one acre of land for each 10 acres of barley you grow," says Fuller. Given the likely market loan and target prices for barley, the deficiency payment per bushel is likely to run at least 50¢. With an ASCS yield of 60 bushels to the acre, which is not uncommon, that would be a full deficiency payment of \$30 an acre.

But because of the likely expansion in barley acres with this program (unless you voluntarily cut acreage 20 percent as compared to last year), you should use an 80 percent allocation factor and reduce the per acre payment to \$24 an acre. The per acre grown payment is one-tenth of the per acre set-aside payment and it may cost something to set the acre aside, perhaps as much as \$20. But that still is a contribution to overhead of \$220--far more than most Minnesota crops will return with current market prices.

It all depends on how you look at it, says Fuller. Other crops--wheat and corn--show much less return, when subjected to the same arithmetic. But returns still are often higher than going land rents.

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EROSION CONTROL
HELPS PUBLIC MORE
THAN FARMERS

It has been conventional wisdom that soil conservation on the farm reaps benefits both to the farmer and to the public. But recent research indicates that the public benefits of soil conservation far outweigh the benefits to the farmer.

According to Clifton Halsey, University of Minnesota extension conservationist, researchers in Illinois found that the most erosive production system, continuous corn cropping, produced the highest net incomes. The cost for using a more conservative system (such as rotation) significantly decreased the farmer's net-income.

Continuous corn cropping resulted in a net income of \$45.74 per acre when using an up-and-down hill methods; \$48.46 net income per acre when contoured and terraced cropping techniques were used. However, when a crop rotation system was used, the net income for up-and-down corn cropping was only \$38.30 and the contoured and terraced method produced \$39.30 net income per acre.

While the least conservative practices produced the highest net incomes per acre for the farmer, the public paid the greatest price for these in terms of cost of sediment damage. When the continuous cropping system was used on up-and-down hill land, the public paid \$16.58 in sediment damage costs; whereas when a rotation method was used on contoured and terraced land, the public lost only \$.84 for the efforts.

Clearly, Halsey notes, the method that produces the greatest income per acre for the farmer also costs the taxpayers the most in terms of sediment damage.

And although the analysis showed that contouring and terracing with continuous corn cropping produced the highest net income, the difference between that system and terracing and contouring system in terms of profit are small--only \$2.72. With uncertainties of price and weather, that isn't much incentive for farmer to reduce soil losses for productivity reasons, Halsey notes.

"The study is significant to policy makers because it shows the dilemma of the farmer who may be required to sacrifice income in the public interest. He (the farmer) is at a great disadvantage in passing on his costs of pollution control to the consumer because he has little control over the prices he receives for his products," Halsey states.

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CHECK STORED GRAIN
FOR INSECT PROBLEMS

You may need to fumigate your stored grain this spring, especially if it's been stored for over a year.

"About one-third of the recent samples we checked from the 1976 corn crop graded infested," says Alan Barak, University of Minnesota entomologist. A small portion of the 1976 grain crop is still in on-farm storage.

Even your 1977 crop could require fumigation. If you find insect activity on the grain's surface and you plan to hold the grain for another year you'll probably need to fumigate to avoid being docked.

"Keep a close check on stored grain--especially when the weather starts to warm up," Barak advises. If you have live insects and the grain is heating, fumigation probably is warranted. Cost of the fumigation material runs from \$12 to \$16 per thousand bushels.

"You can be docked from two to four cents a bushel for infested grain, which figures out to \$20 to \$40 per thousand bushels," says Barak.

With a 10,000 bushel bin, you'll need 30 to 40 gallons of a liquid fumigant. It's advisable to wear a gas mask if you go inside a bin during or shortly after the fumigation process. The top of the grain must be leveled off and the bin sealed before fumigating.

Complete details on fumigating are available in a fact sheet entitled "Insects in Stored Grain." It's available from county extension offices or the Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.

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FEEDING SILAGE
TO SOW HERDS
CUTS FEED COSTS

In years gone by, swine producers regularly fed their gestating sows a diet of good legume pasture and minerals. But in recent years, more and more producers have turned to grain rations for their pregnant sows.

But according to _____, county extension agent for _____, (Name) producers once again are looking to silages made from legume pastures as an alternative to high-priced grain rations.

"Legume silage supplemented with one pound of corn and one pound of vitamin-fortified, high-quality protein supplement per head per day can be fed to pregnant sows and gilts with results equal to or better than grain rations," he notes.

Additionally, producers can use corn silage to replace the more costly grain rations, he says. "Corn silage can be fed to bred sows and gilts satisfactorily if it is supplemented with one-and-one-half pounds per head per day of high-quality protein supplement and minerals free choice throughout the gestation period."

The feeding of silage to pregnant sows and gilts can result in a saving of 20 to 25 percent in feed costs over grain rations, depending on the cost of the silage; however, it is possible that additional labor will be needed, he notes.

"Producers wishing to use silage in place of grain rations with their gestating cows and gilts should make sure the silage is high-quality and free from mold," he says. He also cautions producers not to feed silage to sows during lactation or to growing-finishing pigs.

For more information concerning feeding silage to pregnant sows and gilts contact the county extension office for a copy of Feeding Silage To Bred Sows and Gilts, he says.

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ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

ARE YOU A
GOOD SHOPPER?

Since most food prices are on the rise, any small saving will help your food budget. Some ideas have been around for a long time, but some may be new to you, says Isabel Wolf, extension food and nutrition specialist at the University of Minnesota. She suggests asking yourself the following questions:

* Do you have good food buying habits? Do you take advantage of nutrition labeling, unit pricing and open dating? These cost the grocer extra money. You can learn by reading this information.

* Do you double check prices being rung up as your order is being checked out? As you unload your cart, keep one eye on the cash register.

* Do you insist on your rights when a store advertises specials and then does not have the merchandise? The Federal Trade Commission has ruled that if an advertised item is not available, a store manager must provide you with a raincheck for the item. If a store is frequently without advertised specials, maybe you should try another store.

* How carefully do you plan your food purchases? Good shopping begins at home where you check what is on hand and what is selling at special prices. Make tentative plans for meals you are shopping for, but allow for in-store specials for similar foods.

* Do you check prices at several stores? Comparison shopping takes time but it can be done with newspaper prices for some items.

* Have you taken any courses in budget cooking lately? Many local organizations sponsor such courses. Many of these are free. Check your local community center or public school for information.

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MSC
3A27

PRICING 1978
FARM CROPS

Price planning is a critical part of your 1978 crop decision.

The choice of crops to plant and government program participation depends partly on prices you see for the different crops. Before planting your 1978 crops you may consider one or a combination of pricing strategies.

According to Will Anthony, extension economist at the University of Minnesota, the most certain price is what your local elevator is willing to contract for at delivery.

Another less certain alternative is what you could expect to net out if you hedge on the futures market. The third, and least certain, is your forecast of what the cash market is likely to be at harvest.

Your pricing strategy depends on storage availability, livestock feeding programs and on how much you wish to speculate on market conditions yet to be determined.

Forward pricing reduces price risk, allows more precise planning and may help you to get credit. However, it may or may not give you the highest price.

A combination of some forward pricing, crop insurance and government programs can help put a floor under earnings. For some crops, Anthony says, you can forward price with either a buyer contract or with a futures market hedge.

Determine your capacity to speculate, Anthony advises. This means comparing your financial obligations with minimum anticipated earnings. Caution is in order before doing much speculating if cash flow obligations are apt to consume most of your earnings.

More details are available in a publication available from county extension offices. Ask for the publication What Should I Grow in 1978, FM-418.

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Immediate Release

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3A27

ALFALFA MAY STABILIZE
FARM ENERGY USE,
SCIENTIST SAYS

Scientists are taking a closer look at fossil fuel consumption on the farm. And their results may be surprising to farmers who traditionally have been unconcerned about fuel consumption on the farm.

To produce 800 pounds of alfalfa seed from one acre of crop land requires the energy equivalent of some 460 gallons of crude oil, according to G.H. Heichel researcher with Agricultural Research Service, USDA, and the University of Minnesota. Of this total, nearly 40 percent is used to provide irrigation for the plants; another 3.5 percent is used to defoliate the plants to retrieve the seeds; and machinery fuel use accounts for three percent of the energy budget. A whopping 46 percent of the total is consumed in the processing and distribution of the alfalfa seeds--usually done off the farm.

A normal three-cut season of alfalfa production in Southeastern Minnesota requires the energy equivalent of about 22 gallons of oil per acre, Heichel notes. The three-cut schedule yields about 9,000 pounds of 15 percent dry matter of hay per acre, or returns 416 pounds of forage per gallon of fuel used in production. Additionally, he points out, alfalfa with its nitrogen fixing potential can be considered to return some of the energy used back to the soil. This is based on the assumption that subsequent crops will not need to be fertilized as heavily, he explains.

However, not all areas of the United States produce as much alfalfa per acre as does Southeastern Minnesota. In semi-arid Colorado, for example, only 74 pounds of forage are produced for each gallon of fossil fuel used, he says.

"The research findings indicate that alfalfa may play a substantial role in stabilizing energy use on farms as the energy efficiency and nitrogen fixation potential of the species becomes better known," he says.

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CA, IA, FC

Department of Information
and Agricultural Journalism
Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
March 13, 1978

MS
2/27/78
Immediate release

SUBSOIL TYPE AFFECTS
CROP LOSS FROM
TOPSOIL EROSION

Just how the loss of the topsoil on your land will affect its productivity depends in large measure on what subsoil is beneath it, says Clifton Halsey, University of Minnesota Extension conservationist.

"Soil scientists have known for more than 20 years that the texture of the subsoil exposed by erosion greatly influences the productivity of the land. Depending on the subsoil, the loss of the topsoil can affect productivity from five percent to 45 percent," Halsey notes.

Researchers have classified subsoil types into three groups on the basis of productivity. One group includes subsoils only a little finer in texture than the surface soil and no finer than silty clay loam. Fayette, Tama, Downs, Port Bryon Mt. Carroll and Seaton soils in southeastern Minnesota fit into this group.

These soils, when properly fertilized and tilled, produce yields similar to those of uneroded soils. Iowa researchers found that equivalent corn yields could be produced on either surface or subsoil if 70 to 75 pounds of nitrogen were applied per acre. Seedbed preparation costs may be somewhat higher because of the poorer tilth in the subsoils, Halsey notes.

A second group of soils includes those with subsoil considerably finer in texture than the surface soil, primarily clay loams and silty clays. Floyd, Kasson, Kenyon and Skyberg soils are typical of those in this group. These subsoils are difficult to prepare for seedbeds and crusting restricts seedling emergence. Recent research has shown that heavy fertilizer applications offset yield losses to some extent. Erosion increases production costs on the soils, too, Halsey adds.

The third group includes soils with heavy silty clay or clay subsoils. In addition to fertility problems, seedbeds are difficult to prepare in these subsoils. These soils are seldom, if ever, seen in southeastern Minnesota, Halsey says.

Other soils can cause even more serious problems. Soils that are shallow over bedrock, sand and gravel for instance, can become useless for crops once the surface soil is eroded. Rockton, Dubuque and Whalan soils are typical examples.

Farmers who are concerned about erosion on their farms should consult Crop Equivalent Rating Guide for Soils of Minnesota and talk to their county extension agent, Halsey notes.

CA, IA

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and Agricultural Journalism
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University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
March 13, 1978

ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

MSC
2A27p

WHAT'S THE LIFE EXPECTANCY
OF JUNIOR'S EASTER EGGS?

Do you dare eat that mauve tinted hard cooked egg in Junior's Easter basket after it has been at room temperature for several days? Edmund A. Zottola, extension food microbiologist at the University of Minnesota, says if the shell is unbroken a hard cooked egg will stay edible at room temperature for two to three days.

If, however, rough handling during the Easter egg hunt left the shells cracked, refrigerate immediately and use the eggs in a day or two. Zottola says hard cooked eggs with intact shells will keep for two weeks in a refrigerator.

Hard cooked eggs are versatile menu items. The National Poultry and Egg Board suggests eating them plain or splitting them and combining the yolks with some salad dressing and seasonings for festive deviled eggs

They also combine well with tuna or salmon for a sandwich salad or use them for egg salad, combining the chopped eggs with salad dressing, onion, mustard and your favorite seasonings.

Eggs are nutritious eating around the clock. For breakfast, use the hard cooked eggs in white sauce or concentrated cream soup and serve over toast or an English muffin. Creamed eggs in patty shells make an attractive brunch or luncheon.

If you discover that the hard cooked eggs display an unattractive green edge on the yolk, take note for next time you prepare them. This is caused by a chemical reaction between sulfur in the white and iron in the yolk and is harmless despite its uninviting appearance. To help prevent it, cook eggs at low temperature and cool them promptly.

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Agricultural Extension Service
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St. Paul, MN 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
March 13, 1978

ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

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BEWARE OF FOOD QUACKS,
VITAMIN PILL PUSHERS

Many self-styled nutrition experts are nothing more than quacks, says Isabel Wolf, extension foods and nutrition specialist at the University of Minnesota. Their goal is to separate you from your money rather than to help you.

Mrs. Wolf cautions consumers that many of these so-called nutrition authorities have no academic training in nutrition. While they may sound knowledgeable, much of what they say comes directly from the sales manual for their vitamin supplement products.

Be on the alert, Mrs. Wolf says, when anyone claims that all disease is caused by faulty diet, that the entire population is suffering from malnutrition, that food processing destroys nutrition or that soil depletion is the cause of poor health.

"Food quacks use such claims to create a fear of illness and to sell products," Mrs. Wolf says. "Many millions of dollars are wasted annually on unnecessary and overpriced vitamin supplements."

A common claim from vitamin salespersons is that all vitamins must be from natural, fresh or living sources to be useful to the body. Mrs. Wolf says, "This is not true. As long as the chemical formula and configuration of the vitamin are identical, your body cannot tell the difference between a laboratory-synthesized vitamin and the same vitamin in a natural source."

She adds that "natural" or "organic" vitamins often contain a mixture of natural and synthetic forms of the vitamin.

Only a physician who is trained in nutrition can advise you on your need for supplemental doses of vitamins, Mrs. Wolf says. "Most people get adequate supplies of vitamins from ordinary food," she claims. "Spend your money on food not vitamin pills."

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Department of Information
and Agricultural Journalism
Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
March 15, 1978

FOOD DAY CONFERENCE SCHEDULED APRIL 7

"Food Day", a conference to explore current controversies in food nutrition, will be April 7 at McGuire's Inn, St. Paul. Topics for the day include "Nutrition Controversies", "Why Process Foods?", "The Effects of Processing on Nutrient Retention", "Those Not So Nasty Chemicals" and "Illegitimate and Legitimate Sources of Information."

Speakers will be faculty members from the University of Minnesota, the College of St. Catherine and the University of Wisconsin.

The \$16 fee includes lunch, refreshments and course materials. The course is sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Department of Food Science and Nutrition and Agricultural Extension Service in cooperation with the Minnesota Home Economics Association, the Minnesota State Nutrition Council and the State Department of Education.

To register, contact Chère Coggins, Office of Special Programs, 405 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108 or phone (612) 373-0725. The meeting is open to everyone regardless of race, creed, color, sex, handicap or national origin.

HEFL, TCO & EHE

Department of Information
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Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
March 20, 1978

Immediate release

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UPPER MIDWEST TROUT
SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULED
FOR APRIL 15

More than 200 anglers from across the northern midwest are expected to attend the Upper Midwest Trout Symposium II, scheduled for April 15, at the University of Minnesota campus in St. Paul.

The theme for the symposium will be "Trout Water: Conflict and Competition for Resources" and the featured speaker will be Lefty Kreh, internationally known fly fisherman from Cockeysville, Maryland. He will be speaking on trout fishing conflicts around the country.

Also to be featured on the day-long program will be professionals from the upper midwest speaking about river use planning, legal problems and other conflicts currently facing trout fishermen

The symposium is open to anyone who is interested in trout fishing and preregistration is suggested. For more information concerning the symposium contact: Gene Anderson, Office of Special Programs, 405 Coffey Hall, 1420 Eckles Avenue, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN. 55108.

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Tel. (612) 373-0710
March 20, 1978

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ADJUST NITROGEN NEEDS
FOR CORN BASED ON
PREVIOUS YEAR'S WEATHER

The nitrogen needs for crops are extremely variable each year. Varying nitrogen requirements are caused by varying soil moisture content and soil temperature, the soil pH and other factors.

However, it's still possible to predict nitrogen needs over two or three years, say University of Minnesota soils specialists Curt Overdahl and Chuck Simkins. By averaging the right amount adjusted to known past yields, you can arrive at a fairly accurate figure.

In 1976, many farmers on fine textured soils added enough nitrogen for 150 bushel corn yields. Generally this was about 150 pounds per acre of nitrogen. But low rainfall caused a yield of only half their goal. On these heavy soils, there was considerable residual nitrogen for the 1977 crop. Thus an adjustment downward in nitrogen application could have been made once the 1976 yield was known. Where strips receiving no nitrogen were left last year, it was obvious that benefits from added nitrogen fertilizer weren't very big in many areas of the state.

On heavy soils where excess nitrogen has been added, field trials show that the nitrogen is still in the root zone. On silt loam or finer textured soils, Wisconsin experiments show that the downward movement is only about two feet per year. This is slow enough for next year's crop to still take advantage of it.

"Since 1977 was generally a good rainfall year, corn yields were high and much less nitrogen will remain in the soil for 1978. It wasn't lost, just utilized by the big yielding crop," Overdahl and Simkins say.

Efforts are underway to test soils for nitrate to a greater depth than the two foot level now used. Measuring nitrate-nitrogen that remains in the profile may accurately relate with yield increases from nitrogen added.

-more-

add 1--adjust nitrogen needs

"In the near future a deep soil test may be adopted for corn. At present the research is preliminary, but results have been encouraging," the scientists say. These tests are made in one-foot increments to five feet. It is hoped that a test, perhaps no greater than three feet, would be a good predictor of nitrogen needs.

But farmers on coarser textured soils have an entirely different situation. Excess nitrogen is usually lost, hence these farmers must use more conservative rates or fit their annual yields to crops more carefully since averages for two years or more usually aren't meaningful. Little is left in the soil profile after any given year on a coarse textured soil.

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Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
March 20, 1978

ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

SPRING FASHION FORECAST:
ALMOST ANYTHING GOES

Don't feel locked into any particular style or fashion whim this spring. Sherri Johnson, extension textiles and clothing specialist at the University of Minnesota, predicts a season where nearly anything goes.

"While most seasons zero in on one or two trends, this time almost every shape, fabric and color palette counts," Mrs. Johnson says. "It's a season when any length goes. Clothes can be worn solo or layered and fashion choices are more expanded than ever."

Separates will retain their popularity. There will be a few new twists on the basic pants, blazers, vests and shirts, but the style range will be wide, Mrs. Johnson predicts.

She sees a trend toward slimmed down skirts, but circle skirts, bias-cut shapes and dirndls will still be very popular. Shirts will range from classic man-tailored to ruffled tuxedo shirts and frilly nightshirts that can double as dresses.

The classic blazer is back again but equally fashionable will be jackets with an "unconstructed" or less tailored look. Some of these will feature shawl collars and others will be collarless. Vests, too, are "in" again.

Straight legged pants, often with a draped or skinny angle, will be evident in stores and pattern books. Mrs. Johnson says some pants will be rounded and full at the hips, often with dirndl or trouser detailing. The high-waisted look is popular as is the draw string or sashed waist. Slinky pants are teaming up with batwing or dolman sleeved tops in many fashion lines.

In dresses, Mrs. Johnson predicts continued interest in the classic shirtdress and in newer shapes such as those mimicking slips and camisoles. Coaldresses and soft, two piece looks also are evident in spring and summer fashion lines.

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Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
March 20, 1978

ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

SOFT IS THE WORD
FOR FABRICS, COLORS
THIS SPRING

Fashions for spring and summer will be soft in both fabric and colors, according to Sherri Johnson, extension textiles and clothing specialist at the University of Minnesota.

In woven fabrics, look for gauzes in every weight from airy to hardy. Also prominent will be cotton damasks, hopsacking, lawn, handkerchief weight fabric, silk and silk crepe de chine and voile, Mrs. Johnson predicts.

Cotton and silk will dominate the knit fabric scene and many of the popular double knits will be lightweight but densely knitted with very fine yarns. Patterns will range widely, but Mrs. Johnson sees particular emphasis on tiny florals and plaids.

Among the most popular colors are the neutrals--white, off white, tan and beige. Pastels also are popular as they are nearly every year.

Mrs. Johnson says the details of spring and summer garments will fall into two categories. The "sweet touches" will include lace, embroidery, eyelet, appliques, ruffles and petticoat effects. More tailored types of trim will be braiding, contrast piping and suspenders.

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ST. PAUL, MN 55108

Department of Information
and Agricultural Journalism
Agricultural Extension Service
St. Paul, MN 55108
March 23, 1978

Conference on Changing Consumer Habits Set April 13

Scarce resources and shifting priorities for how we use them will be the theme at a day-long conference at McNeal Hall, on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus April 13. The conference, "Changing Consumption Patterns: Scaling Up or Down?", will include presentations by University faculty members, legislators and business and community leaders.

Among the topics for discussion will be "Adjusting Patterns of Housing," "Changing Food Consumption Patterns," "Family Interaction Patterns and Change" and "Consumption Patterns and Scarcity." The University's College of Home Economics is sponsoring the event.

Conference fee, which includes lunch and course materials, is \$15. To register, contact the Office of Special Programs, 405 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108 or phone 373-0725.

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Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
March 27, 1978

Immediate release

ATT: Extension Home Economists

MSC
3A27P

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
CHANGES TO REFLECT
HOW WE LIVE TODAY

The Consumer Price Index (CPI), the government's official yardstick of what is happening to your dollar's buying power, has had a face lifting. Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota, says the U.S. Department of Labor has changed how it figures the CPI.

The index now reflects more accurately the impact of inflation on all city and suburban residents, Mrs. Jordahl says. Instead of basing the figures only on the wages of urban hourly workers, researchers now look at the incomes of professionals, the self-employed, the poor, unemployed and retired as well. One figure will represent all urban households while another will represent the urban wage earner and clerical worker.

The indexes also take more consumer goods into account. Where 400 items and services were once purchased in a variety of cities nationwide, economists now look at several thousand items. Families involved in the CPI survey selected the stores now checked regularly for price levels.

Mrs. Jordahl says the new CPI standards were set after eight years of research and an investment of about \$50 million. About 80 percent of the U.S. population was represented either by the 20,000 families interviewed or by the 18,000 who kept two-week diaries of their purchases. The changes reflect differences in how we live, what we buy and our incomes because of changes in values and technology.

The CPI reflects changes in retail prices of goods and services using 1967 prices as the base (100). Thus, an index reading of 154.7 means that you would have to spend \$15.47 to buy the same goods and services that you could have bought for \$10 in 1967.

The index, which is refigured monthly, helps determine welfare payments and aids employers and employees in reaching wage and pension agreements. It is sometimes a factor in determining rent increases, mortgage payments and insurance premiums as well, Mrs. Jordahl says.

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University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
March 27, 1978

Immediate release

DAIRY TOUR
TO SEATTLE

The sixth annual University of Minnesota dairy tour has been scheduled for the Seattle area from Wednesday, Aug. 2 through Sunday, Aug. 6, 1978, according to Robert Appleman, extension dairyman.

Twelve dairy farms, ranging in size from 40 to 600 cows, are included in this year's tour. Ten of the 12 farms have an average production in excess of 18,000 lb. of milk per cow annually. These farms are located along a narrow band extending from Mount Rainier on the south to the Canadian line on the north.

Several farms selected have other features worth visiting. Included among these are the landscaped flower gardens and dog kennels at Carnation Farms; and an antique wagon and buggy display, and Clydesdale pulling team, at the Fred Polinder farm.

Relaxation and fun includes an overnight stay at the Mount Rainier Lodge, a harbor cruise, and an Indian salmon barbeque on Blake Island. The cost is \$425 per person, which includes transportation, lodging, and most meals. For those wishing to remain in the Seattle area for an additional three days, a discount in plane fare is sufficiently large to cover the cost of additional lodging and meals.

Anyone wanting to make reservations or desiring more information should contact Gerald Wagner, Office of Special Programs, 405 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.

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University of Minnesota
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March 27, 1978

Immediate release

UM SWINE SPECIALIST CAUTIONS:
DON'T OVERFEED SOWS, GILTS

Don't overfeed your bred sows and gilts. So says University of Minnesota Extension Swine Specialist Jerry Hawton.

Studies completed at University of Minnesota suggest that sows and gilts can be fed as little as three-and-a-half to four pounds per head daily of nutritionally adequate diet and still perform well. The diet should provide about 5,300 to 6,500 kilocalories of digestible energy for satisfactory performance.

"Excessive feeding of sows and gilts during prebreeding, breeding and gestation leads to increased feed costs and interferes with the potential to maximize profits. Sows that are overfed immediately after breeding or throughout gestation often suffer heavy embryonic mortality and have small litters. Additionally, overfat sows tend to crush more baby pigs," he says.

Gestational weight gain for gilts bred at about 250 pounds should not exceed 70-80 pounds. It is not necessary for sows to gain more than 50-60 pounds during the gestation period. The greater the gain during gestation, the more the weight loss during lactation, he notes.

Hawton outlines three ways to restrict feed intake in sows and gilts. Hand-feeding in individual stalls assures better control of the nutrient intake of each animal and also reduces the problem of "boss" sows. If individual feeding stalls are not used, a large feeding area is necessary to assure that each animal gets enough feed. It is best to separate sows and gilts, or at least group the animals by size, he says.

-more-

add 1--um swine specialist cautions

Skip-a-day feeding is a technique in which sows and gilts are fed as much as they will consume during a one to two hour period every other day. With this system, an adequate number of feeder holes is imperative. Another program where feed is limited to 12 to 15 pounds per head during a 12-hour feeding period every 72 hours also has been reported to work well, he says.

The self-feeding method involves letting the animals eat as much of bulky feeds as they want. The method often produces excessive weight gains and is generally not recommended, he adds.

Regardless of which method you choose, be sure that the diet is nutritionally adequate and that the animals have a supply of fresh water available at all times.

For more information concerning feeding sows and gilts, Hawton advises, contact your county extension office for a copy of Nutrition of Bred Sows and Gilts, Fact Sheet No. 14, revised 1978.

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Tel. (612) 373-0710
March 27, 1978

Immediate release

BOYD TO BE NEW AG
RESEARCH DIRECTOR AT
WASHINGTON STATE

Landis L. Boyd will become the new director of the Washington State University Agricultural Research Center May 1, 1978. He has been assistant director of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station since 1972.

Boyd was born in Iowa and earned all three of his degrees from Iowa State University in agricultural engineering. He was at Cornell University between 1948 and 1964. From 1964 to 1973 he was head of Minnesota's Agricultural Engineering Department.

As assistant experiment station director at Minnesota he was the project director for development of the nation's first commercial greenhouse to be heated by waste warm water from an electric generating plant. The project was a joint effort of Northern States Power Company, the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Experiment Station and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He also had responsibility for branch station programs and developed computerized management programs for many research activities.

While head of Minnesota's agricultural engineering department he strengthened its doctorate program and initiated an engineering intern program and audio-tutorial instruction methods.

He had been vice-president of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers and was named a Fellow of the society in 1973. He received its 1969 Metal Buildings Manufacturers award for research and design of agricultural buildings.

In 1962-63, Boyd was an engineering design analyst for Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Co., Milwaukee, Wis., while on sabbatical leave from Cornell. He served as superintendent of the New York State Farm Building project for the New York State Fair in 1956-57.

He has authored about 50 publications dealing with agricultural structures and farmstead mechanization.

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University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
March 27, 1978

Immediate release

(Agents--the FM 416S forms were
mailed to you last week)

IN BRIEF. . . .

Farm Program Participation. A quick, partial budget form to evaluate the desirability of participating in the government farm program is available from Minnesota county extension offices.

The short form worksheet, called FM 416S, was recently developed by extension economists at the University of Minnesota. You use one sheet for each set-aside crop grown.

* * * *

Sow Nutrition. Feeding the sow herd properly can mean higher profits, University of Minnesota animal scientists say. Good nutrition can reduce embryo mortality, improve reproductive efficiency and increase sow longevity in the breeding herd. It also helps assure no adverse effects on the development of the offspring.

About one-fourth to one-third of the total feed cost involved in pork production goes toward maintaining the breeding herd. Excessive feeding during prebreeding, breeding and gestation leads to increased feed costs and interferes with maximum profit potential. Sows that are overfed immediately after breeding or throughout gestation often suffer heavy embryonic mortality and may have smaller litters than properly fed sows. In addition, they often become overfat and clumsy and tend to overlay and crush more baby pigs. Gilts that are allowed to self-feed until breeding are more apt to have conception problems.

A newly revised fact sheet, Nutrition of Bred Sows and Gilts, gives more details, including sample diets and amounts to feed. It's available from Minnesota county extension offices.

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Department of Information and
Agricultural Journalism
Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
April 1978

The University of Minnesota
including the Agricultural
Extension Service is an equal
opportunity educator and employer.

SPECIAL SHORT COURSE SCHEDULE (May - October 1978)

- May 1, 8 Quality Assurance Workshop: Owner/Manager Course, May 1, 8, Golden Valley. The fifteen hour course emphasizes Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota Department of Health sanitation regulations and food microbiology.*CC
- May 3 Minnesota Agriculture, Dakota County. A workshop to enable secondary school teachers to become acquainted with modern agricultural production.
- May 3 Public Health Conference for Veterinarians, Rm. 135, Vet Science Animal Science Building, St. Paul Campus. Program will emphasize two areas: occupational health - the vet and his employees and pets and the family.*GW
- May 19-21 Minnesota State Fire School, St. Paul Campus. For volunteer and paid fire department personnel, city officials and interested government and industry personnel who deal in fire safety, prevention, control and rescue and first aid work.*EA
- June 6, 7 Livestock Evaluation Short Course, St. Paul Campus. Beef cattle conference on June 6 and swine/sheep clinic on June 7. For breeders, vo-ag instructors and county agents.
- June 6 Gisela Knopka Lectureship, Radisson Downtown Hotel, Minneapolis. A public symposium on current topics in youth development and a reception to honor Dr. Konopka on her retirement.*CC
- June 12-16 Kiln Drying Short Course, Kaufert Laboratory of Forest Products, St. Paul Campus. For persons in the lumber industry interested in kiln drying of lumber.*EA
- June 19-23 Quality Assurance Workshops: Educator's Course, Student Center, St. Paul Campus. A Quality Assurance educator's course for trainers of multiple units food service operations and/or educator/consultants.*CC
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*For further information call Office of Special Programs
CN--Curtis Norenberg 612-373-0725
RM--Richard Meronuck "
GW--Gerald Wagner "
EA--Eugene Anderson "
CC--Chere Coggins "

Page 2 - Special Short Course Schedule

- July 17-20 Agricultural Education Seminar, Radisson South Hotel, Bloomington. For instructors and administrators of vocational and technical educational programs in agriculture.*CN
- July 27-29 Management Overview for Fire Officers, Holiday Inn, Roseville. For fire officers to increase the effectiveness of the fire service in Minnesota.*EA
- August 2-6 7th Annual Minnesota Dairy Study Tour. For dairy farmers, spouses, and others interested in learning about the feeding, breeding, housing marketing and management of dairy enterprises in the Seattle area extending from Rainier Park to the Canadian border. Also an opportunity to see the scenic wonders of the Pacific Northwest.*GW
- August 7,8,9 Vocational Home Economics Update, Radisson, St. Paul. To gain awareness of and commitment to comprehensive home economics programming at all educational levels.*CC
- September 14-15 Sanitarian's Conference, Sheraton Inn Northwest, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. To discuss a variety of developments in dairy and food plant sanitation and field work.*CC
- September 21 Extension Homemakers' Day on Campus, McNeal Hall, St. Paul Campus. A day of exploration in the College of Home Economics to probe, question, offer comment on the education offered by the College of Home Economics.*CC
- September 18, 19 Thirty-ninth Annual Minnesota Nutrition Conference, Thunderbird Motel, Bloomington, Minnesota. This is a North Central regional conference of animal nutritionists for the purpose of presenting research and current information on animal and poultry nutrition in two symposia and a number of supplementary topics. for animal nutritionists representing producers, industry, universities, research, adult vo-ag instructors, farm editors and technical feed salt representatives.*GW
- September Quality Assurance Workshops: Owner/Manager Course (specific dates and locations to be announced). The eight hour course emphasizes Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota Department of Health sanitation regulations and food microbiology.*CC
- September Quality Assurance Workshops: Chef's Food Preparation Workers Course (specific dates and locations to be announced). Directed at kitchen operations, the course includes discussion of Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota Sanitation regulations and how to write quality assured, microbiologically safe recipe procedures.*CC
- October 9-14 American Association of Housing Educators - 1978 Annual Conference, Radisson Downtown, Minneapolis. To further the educational and communicational expertise of housing educators, researchers and persons in related areas.*CC
- October 25-26 Grain and Food Pest Management Training Conference, Sheraton Inn Northwest, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. For food processing and manufacturing pesticide applicators, commercial fumigators, country and terminal grain elevator personnel and structural pest control operators.*EA

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Department of Information
and Agricultural Journalism
Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
April 3, 1978

Immediate release

PEAT SYMPOSIUM SET
FOR APRIL 29

A Minnesota peat symposium is scheduled for Saturday, April 29 in B-45 Classroom Office Building, University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus beginning at 9 a.m.

Topics to be discussed in the morning include peatlands as a resource, ecology and hydrology, peat technology and the projected scope of exploitation.

In the afternoon, topics will include social and economic considerations, environmental considerations and Minnesota energy needs.

This is a public information session and there is no registration fee. More information is available from the Office of Special Programs, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108. Phone (612) 373-0725

The event is sponsored by the Sierra Club, Minnesota Public Interest Research Group, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the University of Minnesota Institute of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics.

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Department of Information
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Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
April 3, 1978

Immediate release

RESIST SPRING FEVER,
STAY OFF THE GRASS

Eager to start work on that winter-weary yard of yours? Resist the temptation to begin raking and fertilizing at least until the spring sogginess is gone, suggests Deborah Brown, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota.

In fact, she advises homeowners to stay off the grass completely until the ground is dry and firm. Each footstep compacts the ground and makes it harder for needed air to reach the roots.

"Hard as it is to resist, vigorous raking this early in the spring can also cause problems," Ms. Brown says. "With the ground still so soft you'll only pull out young plants. Wait until the ground is firm, then use a bamboo rake rather than a stiff metal one."

When you do begin fertilizing, be sure the grass is dry before you begin spreading. Fertilizing works best when it is spread on dry turf and then soaked in with a thorough watering or, if you're lucky, a gentle spring shower, Ms. Brown says.

Choose separate products to fertilize and kill weeds in your lawn, she advises. Although the combination fertilizer-herbicide products may seem more convenient there is a problem with timing. Most combination fertilizer and weed killers contain two different types of herbicide. One is a pre-emergent herbicide for eliminating annual weeds such as crabgrass; the other, a broad-leaf herbicide for dandelions, plantain, creeping Charlie, and the like,

To be effective, the pre-emergent herbicide should be applied around the 10th of May, whereas the broad-leaf weed killer goes on later, when those weeds are already growing actively. In a combination product everything goes on at once, and you even pay extra for it, reminds Ms. Brown.

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University of Minnesota
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Immediate release

TWO NEW SOYBEAN
VARIETIES RELEASED

Two new soybean varieties, McCall and Hodgson 78, have been developed and released by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station.

McCall was named in honor of Tom McCall, long-time superintendent of the Northwest Experiment Station at Crookston, Minn. The variety will be most suitable for the northern, north central and central crop maturity zones in Minnesota.

McCall has purple flowers, brown pods and is susceptible to phytophthora root rot. It has had outstanding yields in comparison with other varieties in the same maturity group.

In four years of testing in Ontario and Manitoba, Canada plus North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin, it has outyielded Altona and Portage varieties. In 43 test plots, yields were 36.5 bushels per acre for McCall; 33.8 for Altona; and 30.5 for Portage.

Foundation seed of McCall produced in 1977 is being supplied to registered and certified seed growers in Minnesota and North Dakota in 1978.

Hodgson 78 is adapted to the same crop zones as Hodgson and is similar in all respects to Hodgson except for its resistance to phytophthora root rot. Yield values are similar, but Hodgson 78 should yield better in locations where phytophthora root rot is a problem.

Hodgson 78 seed was increased during the winter of 1976-77 in Chile. It will be distributed to registered and certified seed growers in Minnesota in 1978.

More detailed information on the new varieties is available from Leland Hardman, extension agronomist, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108.

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C.E.C. SOIL TESTING
MAY REDUCE YIELDS, PROFITS
FOR MINNESOTA FARMERS

Farmers in Minnesota may be furnishing too little plant food for their crops and thus losing production by using a soil test method known as C.E.C. ('cation exchange capacity), says Charles Simkins, extension soil specialist, University of Minnesota.

The C.E.C. or 'cation exchange capacity of a soil has long been used by soil scientists to characterize soils. Basically, C.E.C. is a way of expressing a soil's capacity to hold such elements as calcium, magnesium, potassium, and other positively charged ions such as ammonium.

Certain soils in the U.S., according to Simkins, have a very low capacity to hold plant nutrients and one or more of the above nutrients may be missing. In these soils, of low nutrient holding capacity, a test for calcium, magnesium and potassium may be needed to assure good crop production.

One should be careful, warns Simkins in using this method for Minnesota soils. It is not the principle which is wrong but the interpretation of the results which may lead to wrong fertilizer use. Farmers using this test may be using less fertilizer, particularly potassium than is needed. On most soils in Minnesota the quantity of a particular plant nutrient that is available to a crop is more important than having a certain ratio of one nutrient to another.

Simkins cites an example of how the use of the C.E.C. method might cut a crop short in needed plant food. A farmer shooting for a yield of 150 bushels of corn per acre finds that his potassium soil test is low (80 lbs/acre K). A laboratory making a C.E.C. test may advise the farmer to use 130 lbs. K_2O per acre, where his total exchange capacity is in the medium range. Under Minnesota conditions this would be far less potassium than needed. Researchers in Minnesota have shown that a low test (less than 100 lbs. of K/acre) requires an application of 240 lbs. K_2O per acre to set the stage for 150 bushel corn crop.

-more-

Add 1--c.e.c. soil testing

Simkins is particularly concerned for farmers in Western Minnesota who might decide to use the C.E.C. method for determining plant nutrient needs. Most soils in this area are relatively well supplied with calcium and magnesium. They often contain more than 8,000 lbs. of exchangeable calcium and 2,000 lbs. of exchangeable magnesium per plow acre layer. Yet using the C.E.C. method of testing, a farmer is advised to apply additional calcium in order to balance his nutrients. Research would indicate that this addition of calcium would probably cause no detrimental effect on the crop, but neither would it increase yields under these conditions.

Hopefully, adds Simkins, Minnesota farmers will not turn to the C.E.C. method to determine their fertilizer needs. Rather, they will rely upon up-to-date results from experiments where modern technology has been used so that results can be interpreted and sound recommendations made to farmers.

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Immediate release

ROSE BUSHES NEED
EARLY SPRING CARE

It will be awhile before they begin to bloom, but your rose bushes need some spring care beginning right now, says Deborah Brown, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota.

If you covered the canes last fall with mounded-up earth and leaves, begin now to remove the leaves. Then gradually remove soil from the bushes in stages unless the weather gets colder, she suggests. They should be uncovered by the middle of this month.

For polystyrene rose cones, Ms. Brown recommends an on and off breaking-in routine for early spring. Remove the cones when temperatures are in the high 40's or above, but put them back on again at night or when the thermometer takes a dive. She explains that the cones act like greenhouses in the warm spring sun. Moisture collects inside the cones and can cause serious mold problems if allowed to remain there.

Rose cones with detachable tops for ventilation are best. On warm days, flip the tops open to give the bushes some air, but close them when it turns cold again.

The same general timetable applies to rose bushes protected by the "tip" method. These bushes have been tipped sideways into a trench and covered with earth and leaves for the winter.

Begin immediately to remove the leaves from atop the trench. Remove the soil gradually as the ice crystals thaw on the remaining leaves and the soil softens, Ms. Brown says.

About the middle of this month, raise the plants to an upright position again and water them thoroughly. This keeps the canes wet and protects them against drying winds.

This is also a good time to use an all-purpose fungicide and insecticide and a balanced rose food on your bushes, she says.

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ATT: Extension Home Economists
Immediate release
First in a series of four articles

HOME BUYING:
KEEP COOL EVEN IN
A RED-HOT MARKET

Like crocuses, the "For Sale" signs pop up on front yards in the spring. The only difference is that crocuses last longer. Throughout the state, homes are selling in record time and, usually, for record high prices.

"It's definitely the hottest housing market I've seen since immediately after the Second World War," said one real estate appraiser. "Many homes in the metropolitan area are selling within hours of listing, often for the full asking price and occasionally for an even higher sum."

Who are these eager home buyers and why are they waiting in line to bid on nearly every piece of available real estate? William Angell, extension housing specialist at the University of Minnesota, says many are first-time home buyers in their late 20s and early 30s. In short, they are the post World War II baby boom, and Angell speculates that for the next five to ten years the sheer numbers of young couples and singles seeking first homes will keep the housing industry on the jump. Demand for housing is outstripping the supply and this, plus inflation, is sending property values soaring.

At the same time, inflation is frightening many would-be buyers into taking the plunge now rather than waiting a few years. "Many first-time home buyers seem to have a 'now or never' philosophy," observed Lyle H. Nagell, a Minnesota real estate appraiser. "They often feel that even if they pay too much for a home, the problem will be overcome in a few months when the value of the property goes up."

-more-

add 1--home buying

And that seems to be the direction everything is taking. Winton Peterson, president of the Minneapolis Area Board of Realtors, cited statistics that home sales in the metropolitan area for the first two months of 1978 were 12 percent above the same two months of 1977, which was a record sales year in itself. In addition, the total sales prices of these homes was nearly 27 percent higher than during the comparable period last year.

In Minneapolis last year, the average home sold was for nearly \$48,000, up about 15 percent over 1976's average price and the price climb continues. This is typical, Peterson said, of the current real estate situation. "Existing homes are gaining value at the rate of about one percent a month," he said. "Knowing that, it's understandable why many people feel they can't afford to delay buying any longer. The cost of housing is going up faster than they can save money."

Mortgage money also has been plentiful since the state usury limit was changed in 1976 and relaxed FHA requirements last fall added fuel to an already-hot market.

This doesn't mean, however, that persons planning to buy soon will have to pay more than \$50,000 to get into the housing market. Peterson said sales in Minneapolis for last year showed a wide price range. About 12 percent of homes sold for less than \$30,000 and another 25 percent were in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 range.

Despite this quickened pace of home sales, Angell advises potential buyers, particularly those eyeing a first home, to approach the process with caution. "It's easy to shift suddenly from casual, detached looking into a financial commitment that will have a huge impact on your professional and personal life for years to come."

He says this period of "just looking" is when many persons are vulnerable to sales pressure and manipulation. "First time buyers should use the early portion of their search time to develop a careful strategy," Angell suggests.

Add 2--home buying

Begin by defining your housing objectives. Ask yourself what you expect to get for the quarter of a million dollars you will spend for a house over the period of a 30 year mortgage. Angell says you should also decide upon a neighborhood, and this decision involves weighing several location alternatives. Consider the ideal size home for you, realizing that more is not necessarily better unless you enjoy paying higher utility, maintenance and tax bills.

Next decide how much you can afford. "Rules of thumb should be used with caution," Angell emphasizes. "For example, first time home buyers today often spend about 30 percent of their gross income for principal, interest, taxes and insurance while most rules would limit this to 25 percent."

With these two steps behind you, Angell says the time is right to "assemble your professional team." This means that before you begin looking at houses you should have contacted a mortgage officer and an attorney. An independent real estate appraiser and a real estate agent are also important people to know.

"Exercise caution," Angell stresses. "Remember that real estate agents are legally and financially representatives of the seller, not the buyer."

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IN BRIEF. . .

Optimist or Pessimist? About the farm situation: The optimist notes the tremendous increase of over \$100,000 (in undeflated dollars) both in the average per farm value of farm assets and in the net worth of the average U.S. farmer between 1970 and 1977. The pessimist keeps talking about the "record debt" and the fact that this debt has increased \$19,000 per farm since 1970.

The optimist notes that the per capita income of farm families from all sources is currently higher relative to that of non-farm families than at any time prior to 1972. The pessimist keeps harping on the sharp decline in farm income since the peak in 1973.--from Paul Hasbargen, extension economist, University of Minnesota.

* * * *

Don't Buy Feeders. This is not the time to buy feeders. Instead, it may be a good time for beef cow-calf producers to forward sell some feeders, says Paul Hasbargen, extension economist at the University of Minnesota.

"The new graze option recently offered to wheat producers has added more upward pressure at the time of the usual seasonal high for feeder cattle. Cattle feeders should remember the large losses that followed the high prices for feeders in early 1973," Hasbargen emphasizes.

* * * *

Food Marketing Costs. The marketing bill for food has been rising sharply. "For the past three years marketing costs have been the only contributor to rising food costs. Total costs of raw farm food products have not changed in this period," say University of Minnesota extension economists Ken Egertson and Paul Hasbargen.

Much of the increase has been due to increases in labor costs and prices of energy related goods. Since inflation and rising labor costs are major contributing factors to the rise in marketing costs, we can expect continued food price rises unless measures to control inflation are successful.

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LITTLE COWS
MORE EFFICIENT
MILK PRODUCERS?

Big cow, little cow--which one produces milk more efficiently? That's a question that researchers at the University of Minnesota are attempting to answer. And it looks like the little cow may be winning.

"Research was begun several years ago at Northwest Experiment Station at Crookston to determine whether small Holstein cows could produce as much milk as larger Holstein cows, and whether they would consume less feed in doing so," explains John Donker, University of Minnesota animal scientist. Co-workers Charles Young and George Marx are also involved in the project.

The data at this time indicate that the small cow can produce as well as the larger cow while using less feed, Donker says. In terms of total feed energy consumed, the smaller cows consumed five per cent less than the larger cows to produce the same amount of milk.

Although the data suggest that the little cow may be more efficient in terms of feed to milk ratio, he cautions, the smaller cow may react to stresses of production less favorably than larger cows. Research is underway to determine if the smaller cows can handle the stresses of production as well as the larger cows, Donker adds.

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RECONSIDER CORN SET-ASIDE,
ECONOMIST ADVISES FARMERS

The added 10 percent set-aside option for corn in the revised farm bill will make participation more attractive for corn producers.

Payment is 20 cents per bushel for corn producers if they set-aside 20 percent of their corn acreage.

"Under the previous payment plan that paid a maximum of 10 cents a bushel it was a toss-up for most farmers as to whether they'd participate. Sign-up was low," says Paul Hasbargen, extension economist at the University of Minnesota.

"Now farmers who average 90 to 100 bushels of corn per acre are assured of getting \$180 to \$200 per acre in payments on the second 10 percent set-aside acres if they go in at the 20 percent level.

Hasbargen encourages farmers to "take another look" at the corn portion of the new program and sign up now. "You can change your mind later if you decide not to participate."

However, on barley the payment of 12 cents a bushel of normal yield on the second 10 percent set-aside is less attractive than the anticipated deficiency payment on the first 10 percent set-aside. "The farmer who grows both corn and barley probably should sign up for 20 percent in corn but only 10 percent in barley," Hasbargen advises.

County and area extension agents have tables showing the maximum deficiency payments for corn and barley under different grain market price situations this fall.

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FARM FINANCIAL CONDITIONS
DEPEND ON YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Your assessment of the current financial situation of Midwest farmers depends in part on how you view things, says Paul Hasbargen, extension economist at the University of Minnesota.

"Those who are intimately acquainted with many individual farmers know that most of them are in a stronger financial condition than they have ever been before," says Hasbargen.

"In contrast, those who look only at total farm income and debt figures, with emphasis on changes since the peak income year of 1973, think that farmers may be again approaching their destitute position of the 1930's. This is also true if you listen to the constant media coverage of the farm strikes.

"Land values are expected to rise faster than the general inflation rate by those who know current farm costs. They understand that land prices are established by the better managers who realize that land has value as a 'growth stock' as well as for its ability to earn annual dividends.

"By contrast, those who look only at 'average' returns to asset figures keep saying that 'land prices will have to go down unless crop prices go up.'

"Despite the relatively poor prices of the past year, U.S. farm land prices increased more than the consumer price index," Hasbargen says.

"Given the current economic and political climate, including the weakening dollar and high inflation rates, the increase in farm land prices will likely be even greater in the year ahead." During the past six months (up to Feb. 1978), average land prices increased 12 percent in Minnesota and eight percent nationwide. The inflation rate was 6.5 percent.

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TOP GAINING BULLS
GO ON SALE APRIL 22

Top gaining beef bulls from the Minnesota Bull Test Station, Lake Benton, will be offered for sale at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at the test station. The station is located 11 miles northwest of Lake Benton.

A total of 78 bulls from seven breeds are on official 140-day test at the test station and will be offered for sale. Complete growth and feed efficiency will be available on all bulls. Each bull will be inspected for structural and reproductive soundness, according to Charles Christians, extension animal husbandman at the University of Minnesota.

The Minnesota bull test is sponsored by the Minnesota Beef Cattle Improvement Association and supervised by the University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service.

For top performance bulls of Angus, Charolais, Polled Hereford, Polled Shorthorn, Simmental, Polled Limousin and South Devon breeds contact either C.J.Christians, 101 Peters Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, 55108; or Herman Vossen, Southwest Experiment Station, University of Minnesota, Lamberton 56152.

South Devon and Charolais bulls were the top gainers at the test station, Christians says. Four South Devon bulls represented the top gaining breed. These bulls averaged 3.45 pounds per day the first 112 days on test and are owned by Horseshoe Lake Farms, Inc., Royalton, Minnesota.

-more-

add 1--top gaining bulls

Fifteen Charolais bulls averaged 3.22 pounds per day for the 112 day test, John Blankers, Silver Hills Farms, Holland, Minn., had the top Charolais bull on test with a 4.15 pounds per day gain and an adjusted yearling weight of 1387 pounds.

Sixteen Simmental bulls averaged 3.17 pounds per day on 112 day test. Howard Krog, Lake Benton, had the top Simmental bull at 4.15 pounds per day. A Simmental bull entered by Steve Kjergaard, Lake Benton, had a high 3.43 pound weight per day of age.

A polled Limousin bull entered by Wayne Bollum, Blue Earth, gained 3.17 pounds per day for the 112 day test.

An Angus bull owned by Merle Aamot, Kennebec, South Dakota, topped all Angus bull gains with 3.62 pounds per day on test. Robert Sallstrom, Winthrop, and Erwin Nistler, Maple Plain, had bulls that ranked high on weight per day of age with 2.93 pounds. Ed Curtis, Winona, had a bull with 2.95 pounds per day.

Four Polled Shorthorn bulls of the University of Minnesota West Central Experiment Station, Morris, repeated as top gaining bulls with an average 3.24 pounds per day on test, with the top gaining bull gaining 3.44 pounds per day. Robert Nystuen, Kenyon, had a Polled Shorthorn bull that ranked high on weight per day of age with 2.85 pounds.

NcGregor's Polled Herefords, Warren, had the top gaining Polled Herefords.

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ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

Second in a series of four articles

BUYING A FIRST HOME:
IS IT WORTH SWEATY PALMS?

Most homes come equipped with a furnace, storm windows, some carpeting and a sweaty-palmed buyer. Indeed, that first venture into Mortgage Land can be particularly stressful.

Geraldine Gage, professor of family economics in the University of Minnesota's College of Home Economics, cites research showing that a housing change ranks right behind death of a spouse, marriage and divorce in the anxiety it can produce.

She suspects that many persons, particularly first time home buyers, are influenced by the "auction psychology" of a market such as the current one---an abundance of potential buyers for nearly every available home.

"Be hard nosed and cautious," she advises home buyers. "Perhaps many of the people fighting to get into the home buying market would be happier with some other housing option."

The publication "Consumer Housing Alternatives" available at county Agricultural Extension Service offices or by writing to the Bulletin Room, 3 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108 discusses the advantages and disadvantages of many types of housing. Ask for Extension Folder 318. Single copies are available free to state residents.

The bottom line on any home buying decision should not be the tax advantage it can offer or the sound investment that rising home values supposedly offer to the owner. "In fact, I'm not so sure that at 9½ percent interest, a home is such a wonderful investment," Gage says. "Remember that mortgage payments are only a portion of the month-by-month expenses involved in home ownership. Add to them the maintenance costs, taxes, insurance, utilities and that 'good investment' theory may pale."

-more-

add 1--buying a first home

Instead, the decision to buy a home should fit with the life style a person or couple wants. Gage doubts that many first time home buyers realize all that is involved in home ownership when they jump into the market.

"Just the time required for maintenance, not to mention the money, is a shock to many," she says. "And if you buy a home based on its investment value, you must remember what a perishable investment it is. It won't be a good investment if you don't--or can't afford--to keep it up. And that bill for a new roof could have bought a great vacation."

She stresses that there are many plusses to home ownership, but wise consumers will weigh these against the drawbacks. "To be worth the financial burden that it is, a home has to give you back a lot. And I don't mean just a profit at resale time. The space, privacy and comfort have to be worth what you're paying both in dollars and time."

A home owner herself, Gage values the life style it permits her, but she recognizes the headaches as well. The time will come, she predicts, when the tax advantage and freedom to have pets will be less important to her and the freedom to come and go will be a top consideration.

She asks, "Is there a homeowner who, truthfully, hasn't yearned for the days in an apartment when he or she could leave for a week or even a month with nothing to worry about except what's turning rotten in the refrigerator?"

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NEW LIFE FOR
EASTER LILIES

Once your Easter Lily has stopped blooming, you can start to think about transplanting it outdoors for renewed blooming in the fall. Deborah Brown, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota suggests removing the flowers as soon as they begin withering. Keep the plants in a sunny place where the temperature does not fall below 60°F.

After the plant has turned brown, cut off the stem at the soil surface. In late May, move the plant outdoors to a protected, sunny spot near the house foundation.

Add compost, peat or well-rotted manure to the soil to improve drainage and air circulation through the soil. Ms. Brown recommends planting the bulbs four to six inches deep in most types of soil, but somewhat deeper in sandy soil.

Fertilizer several times during the summer will help the lilies. She suggests applying a complete fertilizer (10-10-10) when the plants are eight inches high and again when the buds appear. Mix one teaspoon of the fertilizer to a gallon of water and apply liberally, avoiding the foliage of the plant.

The lilies will need water during the summer and some shallow cultivation. Be careful not to cultivate too deeply or you will damage the lily roots, Ms. Brown says.

Next fall when the soil is lightly frozen, apply a thick mulch of evergreen boughs or marsh hay over the plants. Keep this mulch on until new growth begins next spring.

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GRASS ADS SOUND
TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?
YOU'RE RIGHT

Beware the ads in popular magazines promising a lush lawn with little effort from Zoysia grass plugs, cautions Deborah Brown, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota. Like so many claims that sound too good to be true, these truly are.

"Zoysia is a poor choice for Minnesota," Ms. Brown says. "In many cases it will survive the winter, but the plugs of grass won't spread in this climate to cover your whole lawn like the ads suggest."

The grass is suited to more southerly regions, but even there it is a coarse and rather undesirable grass. In Minnesota, Zoysia will turn brown at the first frost in the fall and will turn green very late in the spring.

"Save your money," she says. "There's no way the Zoysia ad claims will work out in this part of the country."

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YARD AND GARDEN FACT SHEET FOR MAY

GRASS
by Curt Klint

Crab grass can best be controlled by pre-emergent control. These chemicals prevent the germination of weed seeds. Some of these chemicals are Balanx, Betasan, Dacthal and Tupersan. If you plan on overseeding your lawn also, Tupersan is the only one of the chemicals that will not interfere with the germination of cool season perennial grasses. For best results these chemicals should be put on before May 15 for crab grass control.

Broad leaf weeds such as dandelion, knotweed, pigweed, etc., can be controlled after the weeds are up with 2-4-D (amine form only) or Silvex, these chemicals can also injure or kill flowers and other plants in the landscape so one must be careful not to let the chemical get on any of the desired plants. To be most effective these chemicals should be used when the plants are young and actively growing. The temperature should be at least 60 degrees.

* * * *

FLOWERS
by Deborah L. Brown

May is the time that most spring flowering bulbs are in their glory. A little extra care after blooming will help ensure a repeat performance next spring.

Flowers should be cut off as soon as they fade, so that valuable energy is not wasted on seed production. (Those seeds won't amount to anything in our climate anyway). The foliage, on the other hand, should be allowed to remain until it yellows and dies back naturally. Those leaves help put back nutrients in the bulb for the next year's growth.

After blooming, bulbs may be lightly fertilized with a 5-10-10 fertilizer, using no more than one pound for a 5 by 10 foot bed. In addition, you might wish to incorporate 3 pounds of bonemeal into the soil around the plants in that same 5' by 10' bed.

Although lack of rainfall usually isn't a problem in the spring, you should soak your bulb garden once a week if there is a prolonged dry spell.

Tender summer flowering bulbous plants that have been started indoors may be planted outside once frost danger has passed in late May or early June. Examples of these would include tuberous begonias, caladiums, cannas, and dahlias.

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Dormant root dahlias that have not been started indoors may be planted when the soil begins to warm up in mid-May. Gladiolus corms could also be planted at that time. Both dahlias and glads should have stakes inserted near them at planting time for use later in the season. Driving stakes in later, when they are needed, is likely to result in root damage.

Most flowering annuals and bedding plants should not go into the garden until frost danger has passed - around Memorial Day. Exceptions to this are annual babysbreath, bachelor buttons, gaillardia, gomphrena, annual phlox, poppies, salpiglossis, stocks, cleome (spider plant), strawflowers, and sweet alyssum. These can be direct seeded in the garden as soon as the soil can be worked.

* * * *

NEW APPLE VARIETIES
by Leonard Hertz

A mid-season apple, Sweet Sixteen (Mn #1630), and an early season variety, State Fair (Mn #1639), have been released by horticulturists at the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station in 1978.

The two new cultivars have been grown and tested at experiment stations in Minnesota and other states for several years.

Sweet Sixteen, a cross of Mn #447 and Northern Spy, matures slightly earlier than McIntosh under average conditions, producing broader diversity of cultivars for this season. The fruit has a unique, pleasing flavor with high sugar, moderate acid and crisp, firm textured flesh. Good storage, handling and cooking properties characterize Sweet Sixteen, which has a round-conic shape and a medium-deep stem cavity (often slightly russeted).

Trees have been moderately resistant to fireblight and have not shown abnormal susceptibility to apple scab or cedar apple rust. Winter hardiness has been consistently good and growth has been moderately vigorous and consistently productive on seedling rootstocks. Sweet Sixteen in grower retail market tests is popular with consumers because of its unique flavor and high quality.

State Fair, a cross of Mantet and Oriole, ripens Aug. 15-30, slightly ahead of Beacon. Crisp, juicy white flesh with a sprightly moderate acid flavor characterize the fruit, which is more durable than other early, hardy varieties, such as Mantet and Oriole.

Ripening for State Fair is uniform and premature drop has not been a problem. Medium in size, the fruit is round and smooth with an attractive, bright red glossy finish.

State Fair trees have been cold hardy in central and western Minnesota and grow vigorously as seedling rootstocks. They have been most productive when grown on dwarfing rootstocks.

State Fair apples are quite susceptible to apple scab under moist conditions, although an adequate spray program can prevent this problem. State Fair is recommended for trial in the north central region where good quality and early maturity are desired.

NEW GRAPE VARIETIES
by Leonard Hertz

Two new grape varieties are now available to Minnesotans through research done at the University of Minnesota. Edelweiss is a cross of Mn #78 x Ontario and has medium sized, green berries that have a sweet, pleasant flavor. Edelweiss is similar to an early maturing Ontario grape, suitable for planting in northern areas where early maturity and hardiness are important considerations. Edelweiss vines are productive, vigorous and disease resistant. In the Twin Cities area, they survived without protection and are considered hardier than Swenson Red, the other new variety.

Swenson Red (#439) is a cross of Mn #78 x Seibel #11803 and is important in this area because of its early maturity and fine dessert quality. The red berries are medium large and firm textured, similar to a European table grape. At full maturity, normally early September in east central Minnesota, these grapes obtain high sugar content (22 percent) and have a fine flavor.

The vines are vigorous and productive and have survived temperatures of -25°F . and -30°F . without protection although they are not considered hardy enough to grow well without cover at lower temperatures. Winter hardiness is comparable to Concord but not as hardy as Beta.

Swenson Red grapes can produce a good quality white wine from juice without the skins. Fermentation of the skins is not recommended. A potential weakness is susceptibility to mildew under wet conditions, but this can be controlled by spraying.

* * * *
GARDEN INSECTS
by Mark E. Ascerno

The time for preplant soil insect control in the home vegetable garden is fast approaching. Cutworms, white grubs and wireworms can be a problem if your garden is in an area of newly worked sod. A broadcast application of diazinon (Spectracide) worked into the upper 6-8 inches of soil will provide this control.

Early root crops like radishes and onions can be protected from root maggot attack with a furrow treatment of diazinon at planting time. Refer to Entomology Fact Sheet 11, "Controlling Insects in the Home Vegetable Garden," for concentrations and further information.

Cutworm damage in home vegetable gardens can be a problem. Seedlings and transplants are cut off at or just below the soil surface by the soft-bodied caterpillars which roll into a tight circle when disturbed.

Transplants can be protected from cutworm attack by wrapping stems with paper or cardboard or placing the plant inside a milk container opened at both ends or toilet paper roll. Place plant and protective wrapping in the ground so that the container extends 2" above and below the soil level. The heavier materials provide better protection. Carbaryl (Sevin) can be sprayed on plant stems and surrounding soil when wrapping is impractical. Carbaryl in bait form is also effective. Check label for rates and cautions.

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Immediate release

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WHAT KIND
OF LIME?

Some Minnesota farmers use a special lime hauled in from out of state. However, this is unnecessary, according to many research studies.

The lime being imported is a calcitic limestone, or lime without magnesium. This practice is done because some soil testing laboratories indicate that magnesium in the soil is already too high in proportion to the calcium content, say University of Minnesota soil scientists Curt Overdahl and John Grava.

In Minnesota, nearly all lime produced is dolomitic so calcite lime must be shipped in to get low magnesium material. Transportation becomes a factor so the material is more costly than the local dolomitic type.

A study to evaluate relative soil calcium-magnesium ratios was conducted by University of Wisconsin researchers at two locations. One was on a sandy loam soil, the other on a silt loam. By using calcium sulfate to adjust calcium levels and magnesium sulfate to adjust magnesium levels, they were able to cause a wide variation in the ratio between calcium and magnesium.

The approximate ratio frequently referred to as desirable is 7.5 parts of calcium to one part of magnesium. The sandy loam soil in this experiment was varied to give 10 different ratios from as low as three to one up to a ratio of 7.6 to one of calcium to magnesium, but alfalfa yields were the same at all ratios. These data were the same for two consecutive years.

On the silt loam ratios were again adjusted to 10 different levels, from as low as 2.5 parts calcium to one of magnesium up to as much as 8.5 parts calcium to one of magnesium, but alfalfa yields remained the same at all levels. Conclusions drawn by the Wisconsin researchers from these experiments were that switching from dolomitic lime to calcitic lime in order to adjust the ratio between calcium and magnesium was not necessary.

Lime experiments on acid soils in several other states show little or no difference in yield performance between dolomitic and calcitic limestone, so importing calcitic limestone to Minnesota to adjust these ratios results in paying more for lime with no purpose.

Minnesota is blessed with many areas of high quality dolomitic limestone and this material is recommended over calcitic lime if the delivered price per ton to the farm is cheaper, Overdahl and Grava say.

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CAUTION ADVISED
ON SULFUR FERTILIZER

If you farm in southern or western Minnesota and are thinking of investing in sulfur fertilizer, check with your county extension director first, regardless of what a soil test report may indicate.

Soils in southern and the extreme part of northwestern Minnesota rarely need sulfur, says Curt Overdahl, extension soils specialist at the University of Minnesota. These soils are usually fine textured or "heavy" soils. Research in these areas has never shown a sulfur need, even when soil tests from the plow layer show that sulfur is not adequate.

Overdahl says there are at least two reasons for this. One is that these soils are relatively high in organic matter. Sulfur in the organic matter can become available but doesn't show up in the soil test. Therefore the soil test doesn't give the total story on these heavy soils.

Another reason for lack of sulfur response in many areas of Minnesota is that the subsoil contains gypsum. Gypsum contains sulfur and plants can absorb the sulfur down to three or four feet. "So adding sulfur will not help yields," says Overdahl.

On the other hand, north central Minnesota has many sulfur deficient soils. These soils that are usually low in sulfur are coarse textured and were originally forested before they became farm land. These soils are also low in organic matter. Soil tests for these areas are available to check whether additions of sulfur are needed.

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SPECIALIST GIVES TIPS
ON INCORPORATING FARMS

As farms get larger, more families are asking about incorporating. From one to two percent of Minnesota farms are incorporated so it's not something the "typical" farm or farm operator should be considering.

Ken Thomas, extension farm management specialist at the University of Minnesota, says that farm families fitting the following set of circumstances should take a good look at incorporating:

--Larger, growing businesses with income tax problems.

--Businesses that are going to continue over time and thus may have continuity, control and transfer problems.

--A willingness on the part of managers to operate on a business like basis and to secure the help of a good attorney and tax consultant.

Incorporating can help the large, growing business with tax problems from several standpoints, says Thomas. First, since it is a separate taxing unit, taxable income can be spread over more people or units at a lower tax bracket. Tax rates on the small corporation are lower than for the individual in the early going. For example, the tax rate is about 21 percent on the first \$50,000.

You will likely be able to claim additional deductions as an employee of the corporation. And, if the business is growing you can reinvest earnings and avoid payment of dividends and subsequent double taxation.

The corporation is often mentioned as a useful tool in estate planning. It may be easier to make gifts or sell shares with gifts involved. However, it's often not desirable to put all of your property in the corporation--especially land. This may limit its usefulness as a transfer tool.

-more-

add one--incorporating farms

By keeping part of the property out of the corporation and by using debentures and stock with property in the corporation, you can get income flowing to the spouse and other heirs. At the same time, control can be shifted to a farming son who needs to control only 51 percent of the stock, not 51 percent of total assets.

"You need to be business like in a corporation. There are reports and details involved," says Thomas. A final point: find yourself a good attorney and tax consultant familiar with farm incorporation--or don't incorporate. Many things need to be done right at the outset to make the best use of incorporation and you can't leave them to chance."

More details are available in a bulletin entitled "The Farm Corporation," North Central Regional Extension Publication No. 11, available from county extension offices.

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SIRE SELECTION:
KEY TO HIGHER
DAIRY INCOME

Dairymen who want high performance in terms of income should select sires carefully--using high predicted difference dollar sires. So says C. W. Young, University of Minnesota animal scientist.

"Selection is the single most important tool available to producers to improve the dairy herd. The effectiveness of selection will depend largely on the heritability of the trait for which selection is practiced, the amount of variation that exists for the trait from animal to animal and the intensity of selection that can be practiced."

Milk yield--one of the most economically important traits--has a heritability of .25, is highly variable, and selection of sires can be quite intense both on the basis of pedigree and progeny testing, Young notes.

Research conducted since 1964 at University of Minnesota and other institutions indicates that using high predicted difference milk bulls has increased annual milk production by 1,000 pounds per cow in just one generation and as much as 2,100 to 3,600 pounds over several generations.

Although using high predicted difference milk bulls can accomplish substantial increases in milk production in a short time, the research also indicates that the use of these bulls also substantially reduces butterfat and total solids percentages, he adds.

"In research herds, use of high predicted difference milk bulls reduced butterfat percentage by .1 per cent to .3 per cent the first generation.

-more-

add one--sire selection

Further reduction has come less rapidly, almost certainly due to selection against such change by AI studs in their selection of young sires for sampling."

Use of high predicted difference bulls has not caused any decrease in reproductive efficiency, although the research indicates that there has been some increase in udder problems associated with the use of high performance milk bulls.

In economic terms, daughters of high predicted difference milk sires do return a substantially greater profit than do daughters of average predicted difference milk sires. Only a fraction of the extra income from the animals is negated by increased costs of production.

Evidence from studies of DHI records have also provided clues relative to what selection can do for herd improvement. Selection for high milk production will automatically improve feed efficiency and improve milking rates, although it will tend to decrease most type or conformation traits, he points out.

Additionally, daughters of bulls having high predicted differences for milk yield will have a longer herd life than will daughters of lower predicted difference bulls.

For dairymen who desire to improve herd income, Young suggests the following: "Select bulls with high predicted difference dollar values, rather than just for milk yield. Eliminate bulls having predicted differences for fat percentage that are excessively low (-.20 or high larger minus). Additionally, select higher predicted dollar value bulls which are best for udders, feet and legs and strength and capacity."

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ATT: Extension Home Economists
Immediate release
Third in a Series of Four Articles

MOBILE HOMES:
A HOME FOR LESS \$
BUT BEWARE OF PITFALLS

Mobile homes have come a long way--and not just in miles traveled from factory to home site. They now offer many consumers an affordable home at a time when many other housing options are out of reach.

William Angell, extension housing specialist at the University of Minnesota, says some 7,000 new mobile homes are sold each year in Minnesota, representing nearly one-third of all new single family houses sold in the state.

What's the attraction? Price is certainly a major one, according to Thomas Walters of the Minnesota Mobile Home Association. Fourteen-foot-wide mobile homes, including furnishings and appliances typically cost between about \$12,000 and \$20,000. This, of course, does not include land. Most mobile homes are set up in mobile home parks where the home owner usually pays from \$60 to \$90 a month for site rental, which sometimes includes charges for water, sewer and electricity as well.

Despite the attractive prices that these units offer, Angell advises potential buyers to be aware of some pitfalls. One of the largest is that, unlike most single family homes, mobile homes generally lose value over the years. This depreciation may be slowing as all other housing costs soar, but only the best maintained and well situated mobile homes will likely retain their original values at resale. Statistics show that many mobile homes depreciate by 20 percent or more the first year and from five to ten percent additionally each year.

add 1--a home for less \$

Another potential problem is finding a place to put your mobile home. In the Twin Cities metropolitan area and some other municipalities in the state, mobile homes can only go into mobile home parks. And the demand for lots in these parks far outstrips the supply.

John Kerwin of the Minnesota Attorney General's Office says a number of consumer complaints arise in this area. "If you elect to move your home, for example, you may not find a place to put it in another community. Some parks are closed to mobile homes except those homes purchased through a particular dealer, who often owns and operates the park," Kerwin says.

In other cases, a mobile home owner may want to sell the home on its current site but the park owner won't accept the potential buyer. This forces the buyer out or makes it necessary for him or her to move the home, a costly project and sometimes an impossible one if there are no other conveniently located parks with vacancies. Kerwin advises mobile home buyers to make any purchase agreement contingent upon finding a suitable site for the home.

Financing can pose another surprise to the unwary mobile home buyer. A different method of computing interest is often used, which may mask the fact that simple interest is higher than that charged on other types of home mortgages. Angell says that an eight percent "add-on" interest rate over a 12 year mortgage term will amount to nearly 13 percent simple interest. FHA and VA mobile home financing programs have a 12 percent simple interest ceiling, but this is still much higher than other mortgage rates.

Angell advises, "The most favorable rate of interest and other loan terms may be available directly from a local bank or savings and loan association. Check with local lenders as well as the dealer. You may wish to inquire about the types of mortgages available through FHA, VA and Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) as well."

-more-

add 2--a home for less \$

A lender can require a borrower to carry insurance, but legally the borrower cannot be required to purchase it from any specific agent or firm. "Shop around and compare the cost and coverage needed for your situation," Angell says, "You may be able to save money. And be sure the lender or dealer gives you a complete listing of all service, processing and closing charges involved in the sale."

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STATE FFA CONVENTION SET
APRIL 23-26

More than 3,000 Minnesota high school students are expected to attend the four-day 1978 Future Farmers of America (FFA) state convention and leadership training program starting April 23 on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus. This is the 49th year of the event.

This year's convention theme is "FFA, A Golden Past--A Brighter Future." Students enrolled in agribusiness and natural resources/FFA courses throughout Minnesota will attend.

The four-day leadership conference is kicked off with a talent show and vespers service on Sunday evening, April 23. The conference also includes the determination of winners in over 20 leadership and judging contests, election of new officers and numerous delegate and leadership sessions.

The highlight on April 24 is the 42nd annual convention banquet in the St. Paul Civic Center Auditorium Arena with national FFA President Ken Johnson from Texas, as featured speaker. The State Farmer and State Star Agribusiness winners will be announced, climaxing a selection process that names the two top FFA members in the state from over 16,500 members.

At 8 a.m. April 25, the 23rd hand-milking contest between the State Star FFA Dairy Farmer, James Westman, Rush City, and Minnesota Princess Kay of the Milky Way will be held. It takes place in front of Coffey Hall on the University's St. Paul campus. FFA'ers have won 14 of the previous 21 contests.

State FFA President, Scott Stuckey, of New Ulm, will preside over convention business sessions. He will be assisted by these student state officers: Glen Menze, New York Mills; Diane Smith, Renville; Dean Augustine, St. James; Dan Lippert,

Danube; Colin Berg, Chokio; Julie Ficken, Fertile; Tom Hentges, Blackduck; Jeff Adkins, Detroit Lakes; Ron Kierzek, Albany; Mark Sederstrom, Montevideo; Roger Meyer, Pipestone; Maynard Augst, Montgomery; and Ed McNamara, Goodhue.

Two official delegates from each of the 280 Minnesota high school FFA chapters will represent the membership in voting on key issues of business.

Activities on Monday, April 24 include:

5:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
7:00 a.m. Judging Contests
9:00 a.m. Delegate Sessions
11:30 a.m. Awards Luncheon
2:00 p.m. Fire & Rescue Demonstration
2:00 p.m. Leadership Workshops and more contests
2:00 p.m. Second Delegate Assembly
5:45 p.m. 42nd Annual FFA Banquet

Activities Tuesday, April 25 include:

8:00 a.m. Contests and committee meetings
8:45 a.m. 3rd Delegate Session
10:00 a.m. Workshops
12:45 p.m. 4th Delegate Session
3:00 p.m. Awards Assembly

New officer training will be held on Wednesday, April 26.

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HOLD FOR RELEASE UNTIL
NOON, MONDAY, APRIL 24

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1978 MINNESOTA FFA WINNERS TOLD

More than 150 young Minnesotans from over 75 Future Farmer of America (FFA) chapters were honored Monday (April 24) at the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus during the State FFA Convention.

The winners of more than \$5,000 in FFA awards were recognized at a FFA Foundation noon awards luncheon at the Prom Center, St. Paul. State proficiency award winners, their chapters and their proficiencies include:

Agricultural Electrification, David Martineau, Elbow Lake; Agricultural Mechanics, Larry Schultz, Montevideo; Agricultural Processing, James Griebel, Motley; Agricultural Sales and/or Service, Tim Biewer, Hawley.

Beef Production, Mark Heggedahl, Kenyon; Crop Production, Mark Christianson, Halstad; Dairy Production, James Westman, Rush City; Diversified Livestock Production, Adam Rachuy, Westbrook.

Fish and Wildlife Management, Bob Schneider, Chokio-Alberta; Floriculture, Mark Sederstrom, Montevideo; Forest Management, Warren Floura, Blackduck; Fruit and/or Vegetable Production, Timothy Kornder, Belle Plaine.

Home and Farmstead Improvement, Gregg Goulson, Montevideo; Horse Proficiency, Nanalee Harder, Mountain Lake; Nursery Operations, Dawn Brainard, Worthington; Outdoor Recreation, Merv Speckman, Sleepy Eye.

Placement in Agricultural Production, Fred Schneider, New Prague; Poultry Production, Chris Schewe, Sleepy Eye; Sheep Production, Timothy Lippert, Danube; Soil and Water Management, Brian Meany, Southland; Swine Production, David Remus, Sleepy Eye; Turf and Landscape Management, Scott Moon, Hayfield.

-more-

State winners also took top honors in their regions. Other regional winners are:

Agricultural Electrification

Daniel Popp, Royalton; David Olson, Willmar; Craig Danielson, Ortonville; Mark Meinders, Worthington; James Jindra, New Prague; Mike King; LeRoy-Ostrander.

Agricultural Mechanics

Brent Gullekson, Fertile-Beltrami; Dean Zimmerman, Royalton; Rodney Roers, Brandon; Mike Matheson, Forest Lake; Roger Seidl, Sleepy Eye; Michael Wallin, New Richland; Joseph Mandt, Southland.

Agricultural Processing

Tom Taunton, Willmar; Mark Frank, Danube; Brad Ahrenstorff, St. James; Don Pederson, New Richland; Dan Novotny, Cannon Falls.

Agricultural Sales and/or Service

Thomas Rongen, Crookston; Scott Nier, Brainerd; Robert Thell, Willmar; Jan DeVries, Montevideo; Curtis Luing, Worthington; Christopher Hertaus, New Prague; Joel Sloan, Plainview.

Beef Production

Stephen Taylor, Fertile; Michael Emery, Motley; Scot Schermerhorn, Frazee; Tim Johnson, Willmar; Roger Potter, Redwood Falls; Ray Gustafson, Madelia; Jay Ewald, Waldorf-Pemberton.

Crop Production

Rolland Farrell, Eagle Bend; Brent Johnson, Evansville; Jeff Huston, Litchfield; Ed Baumgartner, Olivia; Wayne Jurgens, St. James; John Ruehling, New Prague; Richard Brown, Northfield.

Dairy Production

Ward Wilson, Greenbush; Mark Schmitt, Royalton; Steven Kvam, Chokio-Alberta; Connie Peterson, Hutchinson; John Mohr, New Ulm, Daryl Husfeldt, Gaylord; Bruce Benrud, Goodhue.

Diversified Livestock Production

James Neprud, Halstad; Donald Korach, Motley; Dean Rambow, Willmar;
Susan Koch, Montevideo; Phil Traxler, LeCenter; David Serfling, Preston-
Fountain.

Fish and Wildlife Management

Marc Novacek, Greenbush; Robert Anderson, Motley; Doug Bombeck, Willmar;
Jack Byrne, Benson; Terry Holm, Sherburn; Keith Fredrick, LeCenter;
Tim Bly, Spring Valley.

Floriculture

Lori Neprud, Halstad; Christine Wippler, Little Falls; Renae Chesley,
Fridley; Margaret Fleck, New Ulm.

Forest Management

Wayne Lenius, Frazee; Gene East, Willmar; Kathy (Kuno) Mecker, Monte-
video; Gary Kuelbs, Sleepy Eye.

Fruit and/or Vegetable Production

Melinda McVey, Crookston; Kenneth Seim, Detroit Lakes; Kim Parker,
Fridley; Mark Schultz, Montevideo; John Tilstra, Hills-Beaver Creek;
Danny Lundell, Cannon Falls.

Home and Farmstead Improvement

Tamera Lanctot, Crookston; Larry Kolstad, Eagle Bend; Anthony Hartman,
Parkers Prairie; LaMar Haugaard, Willmar; Brad LeGare, New Ulm;
Gregory Carr, New Prague; Larry Wilson, Southland.

Horse Proficiency

Jim Cole, Warroad; Jeannette Polley, Staples; Casey Riske, Parkers
Prairie; Carolyn Setterberg, Willmar; Jonathan Koeberl, Hector; Blair
Shuck, Mapleton; Kevin Vatland, Mabel-Canton.

Nursery Operations

Nathan Purrington, Ada; Daniel Baumgartner, Cook; Dave Hoffer, Willmar;
Charles Maidl, Rochester.

Outdoor Recreation

Francis Schweigert, Motley; Randy Buhr, Frazee; Jodi Norling, Willmar;
Steven Jahn, Montevideo; Doug O'Malley, LeCenter; Bruce Bergene, South-
land.

Placement in Agricultural Production

John Landgaard, Climax; Roger Wippler, Little Falls; Terry Unger, Chokio-
Alberta; Robby Willis, Willmar; Peter Schmitz, Montevideo; Dennis
Abrahamson, New Ulm; James Roush, Cannon Falls.

Poultry Production

Curt Martin, Motley; Paul Diekman, Alexandria; Gordon Brackee, Forest
Lake; Paul Olsen, Owatonna; Linda Winkels, Hayfield.

Sheep Production

Randy Nelson, Fertile-Beltrami; Gordon Gablenz, Royalton; Dixie Berg,
Chokio-Alberta; Randy Barka, Litchfield; Carl Schreier, Slayton; Peter
Scheffert, Waseca; Paul Hamlin, LeRoy-Ostrander.

Soil and Water Management

Marvin Trettel, Royalton; Craig Haseman, Evansville; Julie Lindstrom,
Litchfield; Marty Little, Springfield; Robert Goettl, LeCenter.

Swine Production

Daniel Myerchin, Crookston; David Kelley, Little Falls; Jan Christensen,
Chokio-Alberta; Kent Reed, Chisago Lakes; Timothy Johnson, Hector;
Neal Drescher, Alden; Mark Schaefer, Southland.

Turf and Landscape Management

Verna Huff, Motley; Curt Anderson, Ashby; Konnie Gratz, Willmar;
Robert Fluegge, New Ulm.

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FFA NAMES STAR FARMER,
AGRIBUSINESS WINNERS

Carl Schreier, 17, Slayton, is the 1978 Minnesota Star Farmer and Tom Rongen, 17, Crookston, is the Minnesota Star Agribusiness Award Winner for the Minnesota Association of the Future Farmers of America (FFA).

The awards were presented Monday (April 24) night at a banquet at the St. Paul Civic Center during the State FFA Convention.

Schreier, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Schreier, received a certificate and a \$200 award from the National FFA Foundation. Carl will graduate from Slayton Public High School this spring. He owns 87 ewes and 1600 head of feeder lambs. He also is involved in the hog enterprise. Schreier has participated on the livestock, crops and dairy judging teams in his local FFA Chapter. He has been involved in 4-H and many other community activities. His high school Vo-Ag instructor and FFA Chapter adviser is Mr. Jack Larson.

Rongen, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rongen and a senior at Central High School in Crookston, Minnesota, has served as local FFA Chapter Vice President and Sentinel and was a participant in the public speaking, parliamentary procedure and crops judging contest. He has been employed since 1976 by Fert-L-Flow and Solheim Farms, Incorporated. Rongen's Vo-Ag instructor is Lannis Bergsgard.

Regional Star Farmer winners include: Mark Christianson, Halstad; Mark Schmitt, Royalton; Dixie Berg, Chokio-Alberta; Lonnie Holmquist, Chisago Lakes; Tim Johnson, Hector; Merton Nelson, Ellendale; Mark Heggedahl, Kenyon.

-more-

add one--FFA winners

Regional Agribusiness winners include: Kevin Erpelding, Blackduck; Rodney Roers, Brandon; Robby Willis, Willmar; Jan DeVries, Montevideo; Brian Ebbinga, Butterfield; Bruce Goettl, Montgomery; Scott Moon, Hayfield.

Parents of last year's state FFA officers receiving honorary State Farmer degrees include: Franklin and Marilyn Stuckey, New Ulm; Delores Menze, Otter-tail; Mr. and Mrs. Bob Smith, Renville; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Augusin, St. James; Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Lippert, Blomkest; and Senator Charles and Mrs. Berg, Chokio.

Parents of this year's State Star Agribusinessmen, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rongen, Crookston and parents of this year's State Star Farmer, Mr. and Mrs. John Schreier, Slayton will receive the Honorary State Farmer degree also.

Adults receiving honorary State FFA degrees for service to FFA'ers include Larry Bachman, Bachman's, Inc., Minneapolis; Dale Benson, Vo-Ag instructor, Alexandria; Dale Busch, Vo-Ag instructor, St. James; Dave Brandon, Chairman, State Board of Education, Montevideo; Dr. George Copa, professor, University of Minnesota, St. Paul; J. L. Donovan, Secretary of State Emeritus, St. Paul; C. W. "Casey" Dowling, Vo-Ag instructor, St. Peter; Lowell Gunderson, Vo-Ag instructor, Ada; Jon Haaven, President and General Manager, Alexandria Newspapers, Inc., Alexandria; Dr. Jerry Hawton, professor, University of Minnesota, St. Paul; David Hest, Editor, Agribusiness News, Rochester; Al Holte, Twin Turbine Sales, South St. Paul; Louis Jelinski, Vo-Ag instructor, Little Falls; J. A. Kelsey, Manager, Agricultural Communications, International Harvester, St. Paul; Bruce Lease, Farm Director, KWOA radio, Worthington; Rodney Lewis, Vo-Ag instructor, Gibbon; Jack Lynch, Manager, KWLM radio, Willmar; James Oberstar, 8th District Congressman; Alec Olson, Lt. Governor; V. S. Packard, Extension Specialist, Dairy Products, University of Minnesota, St. Paul; Don Paulson,

add two--FFA winners

Executive Director, Minnesota Pork Producers, Albert Lea; Vaughn Sinclair, President and General Manager, Watonwan Company Farm Services, St. James; LeRoy Swanson, Vo-Ag instructor, Adams; Wallace Thoreson, Vo-Ag instructor, Mora; Bill Walker, Commissioner of Agriculture, Red Wing; Mrs. Cindy Weber, Office of Special Programs, University of Minnesota, St. Paul; W. A. "Bill" Wettergren, Executive Secretary, Minnesota School Boards Association, St. Peter; Darrell Wilson, Vo-Ag instructor, President of the Minnesota Vo-Ag Instructors, Granite Falls.

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FFA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTED

The Future Farmers of America presented its Building Our American Community (BOAC) and related awards at its Convention at the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota Tuesday. The BOAC award is intended to recognize interested, experienced, and knowledgeable community leaders and citizens. The winner in the BOAC contest was the Cannon Falls FFA Chapter. Along with Cannon Falls, the Montevideo, Willmar, and Fridley FFA Chapters will be Minnesota's BOAC representatives at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City in November. Other top award winners in the BOAC competition were Benson, Bertha-Hewitt, Chokio-Alberta, Eagle Bend, Hastings, Lake Benton, Pine City, St. Cloud Tech, Stillwater, Truman, and Wabaso.

The FFA this year began a new award to honor chapters with high achievement in the BOAC, safety and National Chapter award areas. If a chapter received a superior (gold) rating in these three areas they also received an additional Triple-Crown trophy. The 15 chapters earning the trophy this year were: Cannon Falls, Benson, Bertha-Hewitt, Willmar, Eagle Bend, Montevideo, Forest Lake, Truman, Stillwater, Goodhue, Brandon, New Ulm, Westbrook, Springfield, Lanesboro.

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II-P, II-B, SN2

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FFA SAFETY AWARDS GIVEN

Stressing education as one way to prevent farm and community accidents, the Minnesota Future Farmers of America presented safety awards to twelve chapters at the group's annual convention in St. Paul this week.

The outstanding achievement award was given the the New Ulm and Eagle Bend Chapters. Other award winners in the safety contest in order of ranking were: Montevideo, Cannon Falls, Brandon, Worthington, St. Cloud Apollo, Bertha-Hewitt, Blue Earth, Benson, Goodhue, and Lanesboro.

The chapters focused on safe practices in the areas of farm tractors and machinery, home and buildings, shop, fire prevention, traffic and transportation, agricultural chemicals, electricity, livestock, and recreation.

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II-P, II-B, SN2

Department of Information
and Agricultural Journalism
Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
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April 24, 1978

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FFA CHAPTERS, FRIENDS OF FFA HONORED

The Minnesota Future Farmers of America (FFA) honored outstanding chapters and gave a special recognition to individuals and organizations supporting FFA programs during the group's annual convention this week at the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus.

Chapters receiving outstanding awards for the 1977-78 "Corn Drive for Camp Courage" were: Albany, Albert Lea, Alden, Amboy-Good Thunder, Belle Plaine, Blue Earth, Butterfield-Oden, Dassel-Cokato, Dawson-Boyd, Dover-Eyota, Elk River, Fairfax, Faribault, Freeborn, Goodhue, Greenville, Grove City, Hector, Herman, Howard Lake-Waverly, Hutchinson, Jasper, Kasson-Mantorville, Kiester, Lanesboro, Litchfield, Madelia, Montevideo, New Richland, Norwood-Young America, Princeton, Sanborn, Sleepy Eye, St. Cloud Tech, Stillwater, Tracy, Trimont, Truman, Walnut Grove, Waterville-Elysian, Wells-Easten, Willmar and Worthington.

The Montevideo Chapter's \$3,300 contribution was the highest total amount raised during the past year for Camp Courage.

These 43 Chapters were about one-fourth of the total number of FFA chapters that raised more than \$90,000 for handicapped youngsters to attend Camp Courage. Funds were raised by selling gleaned corn and donated farm crops. The FFA funds also helped construct the leadership/dining hall at Courage North and other Camp Courage activities. Minnesota FFA Chapters have contributed nearly \$800,000 to Camp Courage since 1953, and the 1977-78 contribution was one of the largest in 25 years.

Add one--FFA chapters

The Eagle Bend Chapter won the FFA cooperative award, based on classroom and off-school campus study and participation in cooperative activities. The chapter adviser and four members will get an expense-paid trip to the Minnesota Association of Cooperatives (MAC) meeting in St. Paul in October, and one chapter officer will receive a trip to the American Institute of Cooperation summer session at Montana State University.

The Watertown Chapter placed second, Springfield third, and Fergus Falls fourth in the cooperative contest. They received travel awards from the Minnesota Association of Cooperatives to the summer MAC Conference.

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MINNESOTA RED AND WHITES
MAY BE HOLSTEINS'
CLOSEST COMPETITOR

Rosemount, Minnesota is the home of an improved strain of Milking Shorthorn dairy cattle. These red and white cattle evolved from crossbreeding research started 18 years ago at the University of Minnesota Rosemount Experiment Station.

Today the red and white herd bears little resemblance to early Milking Shorthorns brought to the station in 1960 by C.L. Cole. Early research at the University resulted in genetic improvement of the Rosemount herd by crossing Milking Shorthorn cows with two New Zealand Milking Shorthorn sires through artificial insemination.

Most of the more recent genetic upgrading is largely due to the research work of Charles W. Young, dairy cattle breeding specialist. Basically, the current red and white crossbreeding program involves utilizing frozen semen from Australian Illawarra Shorthorn and Ayrshire sires on advanced generations of the original Milking Shorthorn cows.

"The combination of Ayrshire and Australian Illawarra Shorthorn breeding has allowed us to put Selwood Betty's Commander and Sunny View Little Princess 30th into the same gene pool," explains Young. The former is an outstanding Ayrshire bull and the latter is an outstanding Australian Illawarra Shorthorn cow. "With this combination we hope to breed animals that can compete with the Holsteins."

-more-

add one--Minnesota red and whites

Since the original crossbreeding was started, the red and white herd's production has dramatically increased. DHI rolling herd averages have gone from 7,220 to 13,079 pounds of milk and 258 to 512 pounds of butterfat from 1960 through 1977.

Although the Holsteins at Rosemount still outproduce the red and whites, the production gap is getting smaller. The cows have been gaining an average of 89 pounds of milk and 2.3 pounds of butterfat annually on the Holsteins. "Over 17 years, the difference between the two herds has decreased by 1,523 pounds of milk and 39 pounds of butterfat," says Young.

The Minnesota red and white cattle are no longer referred to as Milking Shorthorns, although most are registered with that breed society. "They represent an improved strain of Milking Shorthorns, or they may be the forerunner of a new breed," according to Young.

Young's ultimate goal in his crossbreeding work is to form a new breed that will not only be competitive with the Holstein, but that might also cross with the Holstein to produce crossbreeds superior to either breed for commercial dairy production.

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Immediate release

NEW POULTRY PACKAGING
METHOD PROLONGS SHELF LIFE,
REDUCES SHIPPING COSTS

A new method of packaging fresh poultry has been perfected by Eugene Sander, food scientist, University of Minnesota. The new technique extends the shelf life of fresh packed poultry by using carbon dioxide (CO₂) to retard bacterial growth. Sander's research shows that chickens which would normally last 10 days packed in ice can have a shelf life of 27 days or more if stored under CO₂ at 34 degrees F. (1.1 degrees C.).

"We've taken a known art and applied it in a new way," says Sander. The concept, called controlled atmosphere, has been successfully used to prolong the storage of fruits and red meat. Adapting the concept to poultry packing hinged on the development of a bag or wrap with a strong oxygen barrier to keep the carbon dioxide trapped for a considerable length of time. A nylon-SURLYN wrap proved to be a suitable barrier.

Sander's technique involved wrapping freshly slaughtered birds (chilled and drained) in this special film bag via a machine that automatically removes the oxygen from the bag, backflushes the area with carbon dioxide, and seals the bag air tight. The inflated bag eventually tightens around the birds as the carbon dioxide is absorbed by the poultry.

"With extended shelf life, packers can use cheaper (slower) methods of transporting their produce," explains Sander. In addition, they can ship longer distances which opens new markets. Controlled environment packaging allows packers to ship 15-25 percent more poultry in the same truck space required by the conventional wet-ice method.

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STATE'S ECONOMY
IS NOT LAGGING

Minnesota's economic growth prospects look very good when compared to neighbor states and the nation.

Projected growth rates in earnings from all sources are higher for Minnesota than for the U.S. as a whole. They're also higher in Minnesota than for any other Midwest state, according to a new report by Terri Erickson and John Helmberger, agricultural economists at the University of Minnesota.

Although Minnesota is a high tax state, there's no statistical evidence that Minnesota's high taxes account for a significant difference in economic growth when compared to other states. "It's not necessary to belabor this point because Minnesota's economy is not and has not been lagging," the economists say.

"There's been no lag, there is no lag and the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the U.S. Department of Commerce projects no lag."

Although Minnesota's per capita income is lower than the national average, it has been growing faster. Generally, states like Minnesota in which agriculture is relatively important have had lower per capita incomes. The relative decline in the importance of agriculture helps explain the more rapid rate of growth in per capita income in Minnesota and other agriculturally important states.

Expansion in such growth industries as electronics and other industries that require highly skilled and professional labor suggests that Minnesota's prospects for above average growth are good. Despite out-migration from the state, growth in total personal income as well as growth in farm income, nonfarm income and per capita personal income should be above average.

-more-

add one---state's economy

Minnesota's growth rate has been faster than the national average, whether growth is measured by total personal income, per capita personal income, income from manufacturing, nonfarm income or farm income.

A limited number of the reports are available from the Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108. Ask for Special Report 66, 1978, "Economic Growth in Minnesota".

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Immediate release

DEMONSTRATION OF
METHANE DIGESTER
SET FOR MAY 17

A farm-scale methane digester producing a fuel gas from animal manure will be demonstrated for the public Wednesday, May 17 from 1 to 5 p.m.

This anaerobic digester uses swine manure to produce a fuel gas and to conserve the nutrients in the manure. The project is sponsored by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station and the Minnesota Energy Agency. The open house is being sponsored by the Anoka County Agricultural Extension Service.

The digester is located on the Verlo Larson farm in northeastern Anoka County. The farm is located on Anoka County 17 west of the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area and east of Coon Lake. The farm is 2.2 miles north of the intersection of Anoka County 18 and 17 on Highway 17. From the Twin Cities visitors may take Interstate 35W north to the intersection of Lexington Avenue and I-35W. Highway 17 north is an extension of Lexington Avenue. The farm is 11 miles north of the intersection of I-35W and Lexington Avenue. Signs marking the site of the demonstration will be on highways in the area.

The 10,000 gallon digester constructed over the period of two and one-half years has been producing bio-gas for over two years. The digester is currently producing 900 cubic feet of bio-gas per day and is equipped to use the bio-gas for heating and for electrical power generation.

Information will be provided concerning the anaerobic digestion process, the problems associated with this energy-waste management system and how it applies to alternative energy on our modern farms.

For more information about the open house call Extension Ag. Engineering, University of Minnesota at (612) 373-0764 or the Anoka County Extension office at (612) 755-1281.

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Immediate release

SPRING IS TIME
FOR ATTENTION TO FRUIT

If you have fruit trees or bushes, a little care at this time of year will pay dividends at harvest. Leonard Hertz, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota, says one common problem is the girdling of trees by rodents and rabbits.

He says that when the bark of the tree is removed or destroyed all the way around the trunk, the part above the girdle will die. Some girdled trees may leaf out for one season, but both the top and roots will die the second year unless sprouts have grown below the girdle.

If the damage is minor--small patches or a partial girdle, smear an asphalt water emulsion dressing (treekote) on the open wound to protect it from drying. If damage is more extensive, only bridge grafting will help, Hertz says.

If you're planning to plant fruit trees this spring, choose only types suited to our severe climate. Hertz cautions that peaches and sweet cherries are not adapted to our harsh winters and trees with several kinds of fruit on the same tree seldom thrive in Minnesota.

Fertilize fruit trees in the early spring with a complete fertilizer such as 13-13-13. Use about one pound of fertilizer for each inch of trunk diameter. A young tree may need only one or two pounds while a mature tree might require six to ten pounds. Hertz says to apply the fertilizer in a broad ring starting about two feet from the trunk and extending beyond the branch tips.

* * * *

-more-

add 1--spring is time for attention

CARING FOR BERRIES

Plant June bearing strawberries in the early spring, as soon as the ground can be worked. Set the plants 24 inches apart in rows four feet apart, advises Leonard Hertz, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota. Remove all flowers during the first year so the plants develop strong runner plants that will fruit well in following years.

Everbearing strawberry plants grow best when plants are set about 18 inches apart in rows spaced 18 inches. Separate each group of three rows by a two-foot walkway. Remove all runners so that each plant develops a large, healthy crown.

Plant raspberries (red, purple and black) in early spring, as soon as possible after nursery stock arrives. Pack the soil firmly around the roots after planting and cut back the tops to within four inches of the ground to encourage the production of vigorous new canes. When grown in a hedgerow, set the plants two and a half feet apart in rows six to nine feet apart. If grown in hills, a six by four foot spacing is about right.

Blueberries grow best in acid soils (pH 4.5 to 5.5) that are well drained, coarse textured and high in organic matter. In early spring, plant the blueberries four feet apart in rows six feet apart and at the same depth they were growing in the nursery. Water thoroughly following planting.

* * * *

SUCCESS WITH GRAPES

Grapes can do well in Minnesota if suitable sites are chosen and the varieties are well adapted to this climate. Choose a spot with full sunlight such as a southern slope or the south side of a windbreak, suggests Leonard Hertz, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota.

-more-

add 2--spring is time for attention

Plant grapes in a sandy loam soil with a high amount of organic matter. Set the plants a little deeper than they were in the nursery and firm the soil around the roots, spacing the plants and rows about eight feet apart. Run the rows across the slope.

Hardy grape varieties such as Beta need a severe pruning before growth starts each spring. Failure to prune produces a jungle of old canes and limits fruit production. Tender varieties such as Concord should be pruned in the late fall before being laid down for winter protection.

* * * *

PRUNING PEAR TREES

Start training young pear trees at planting time and then, once established, prune only lightly. Leonard Hertz, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota, says the branches of most pear varieties tend to grow upright so they should be spread.

To spread a pear tree, put wooden spreaders in or near the crotches or tie the branches down or outward. Pear trees are slow to begin bearing fruit. As the trees reach five or six years of age, tying down or bending the upright branches aids the start of fruit buds.

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FRUIT GROWING IS
ENJOYABLE HOBBY

Growing fruit crops can be an interesting and enjoyable hobby for home gardeners, but care and maintenance are essential for good results, says Leonard B. Hertz, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota. The severity of insect and disease attacks varies, however, among types of fruits and even within varieties of the same fruit.

Listed in order of severity of pest problems from least severe to most are cherries, apricots, early apples, plums and pears and late maturing apples. The small fruits and bush fruits generally have fewer pest problems than tree fruits, Hertz says. From least to most severely troubled are gooseberries, currants, blueberries, grapes, raspberries and strawberries.

Wise use of sprays can aid the home fruit grower in raising clean, safe, pest-free fruits. To obtain a copy of "Home Fruit Spray Guide," Extension Folder 375, check with your local county Agricultural Extension Service office or write to the Bulletin Room, 3 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108. Single copies are free to Minnesota residents.

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ATT: Extension Home Economics
Immediate release
Fourth and final
series article

CONDOMINIUMS:
SORTING OUT
YOURS, MINE, OURS

If your dream house has four walls, a little piece of yard and a sky high price tag, what would you think about scrapping the yard and sharing two of the walls to save your budget?

If that doesn't sound like a bad idea, you, along with many other Minnesotans, may be a candidate for condominium ownership.

William Angell, extension housing specialist at the University of Minnesota, says condominium ownership is an increasingly popular housing option. In it, the buyer owns his or her individual dwelling unit and has shared ownership of property or facilities held with other owners.

"To many consumers, the condominium approach is a desirable balance combining fee-simple ownership of a dwelling unit and joint control of common areas without direct maintenance responsibility," Angell says.

It's the maintenance headaches of owning a single family home that many condominium owners want to avoid, according to Gary Solomonson of Keyfinders, a condominium marketing research firm in the Twin Cities. He says many condominium buyers are young, professionally employed single persons who either lack the resources to buy a single family home or don't want to be bothered with its upkeep.

Another group investing in condominiums is retired or "empty nest" couples who no longer need as much space. Condominium ownership offers the same tax advantages that home ownership does, and Solomonson says patterns so far show that condominiums appreciate in value nearly as quickly as single family homes. Angell cautions, however, that condominiums are relatively new to this area. It's still early to tell about resale patterns, particularly if housing demand slackens.

Condominium prices start in the mid to upper \$20,000 range, with many of the lower priced units in converted buildings. These are former rental apartments that are now being sold individually. Solomonson says that

add 1--condominiums

condominiums in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 range begin to offer buyers comparable square footage to small single family homes often selling for \$10,000 to \$20,000 more.

"For first-time buyers, lower priced condominiums offer an 'in' to the housing market at a relatively low cost," Solomonson says. "By buying a unit, even if they only expect to live in it for a few years, they're building up equity that they can later put into a single family home if that's the eventual goal."

The monthly expenses to condominium ownership include mortgage payments, taxes and utilities just as are found in single family homes. In addition, condominium owners pay a share of monthly snow removal, lawn, street, sidewalk, exterior, and common area maintenance as well as management costs. Each condominium owner is a member of the association that sets policies and looks after the common areas and facilities.

If you are in the condominium market, it's important to find a building or development where your neighbors incomes and values are similiar to your own, according to Mike Parish of The Guide to Condominiums and Townhouses. Otherwise you may be paying an extra \$40 a month or more for such niceties as a pool, tennis courts and party rooms whether you use them or not.

Similarly, if an owner's association decides to add some of these facilities later, you'll be assessed to pay for them. With only one vote in the association, decisions about exterior decorating, level of upkeep, operation budgets and assessments may not reflect your wishes.

Angell cautions consumers looking at condominiums sold on the leasehold (ground or recreation lease) basis. Although this arrangement may make the purchase price of a unit less, any savings could be eaten up by monthly lease payments and difficulties in resale. Leasehold condominiums have been the source of many consumer complaints in other states so Angell advises potential buyers to evaluate the purchase carefully and to seek the advice of an attorney with experience specifically in condominium law. Check with your mortgage officer for referral to such an attorney.

For a copy of the free booklet "Questions About Condominiums," write to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, 6400 France Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN. 55435.

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ATTN: Extension Home Economics
Immediate Release

CHECK OPERATING COSTS
ON REFRIGERATORS, FREEZERS

Refrigerator A and refrigerator B look about the same. They're the same size and both defrost automatically. But refrigerator B costs \$75 less so the savvy consumer opts for it. Right?

Not so fast, says Wanda Olson extension household equipment specialist at the University of Minnesota. Differences in energy consumption can erase the savings on a cheaper, poorly insulated appliance and can inflate your electricity bill by as much as \$5 a month at four cents per Kilowatt hour (KWH).

Mrs. Olson advises consumers to inquire about energy use before deciding on an appliance. If the information isn't given on the label, check with the home economist in your local county Agricultural Extension Service office. She can provide you with data from the directory of the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, (AHAM).

Although there are general patterns for energy use, some refrigerators and freezers use more electricity than most models in their size range. It is these electricity-hungry appliances that consumers should be aware of, Mrs. Olson says.

For example, most refrigerators between 16 and 18.9 cubic feet with automatic defrost use between 85 and 165 kilowatt hours (KWH) of electricity monthly. At typical rates, it would cost the owner about \$3.20 a month more to operate the less efficient model than to run the others. This added electricity charge could add up to nearly \$40 a year for the life of the appliance, typically about 16 years. Since energy efficient models cost more to purchase, dollars savings should reflect either finance charges or income this money could have provided if invested.

Freezers offer other examples. Manual defrost units (15 to 16.9 cubic feet) in both chest and upright styles use between 60 and 110 KWH per month. Upright automatic defrost freezers in this size use between 100 and 170 KWH monthly.

Mrs. Olson says the energy use figures given on appliance tags or in the AHAM directory are based on standardized test conditions. A family's actual expense to run a refrigerator or freezer will depend on many factors, including room temperature where the appliance is located and how often the door is opened.

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4-H NEWS

Immediate release

4-H CLOTHING PROJECTS
POPULAR IN _____ COUNTY
(County)

Currently, some _____ 4-H'ers are enrolled in the
(No.) (County)
4-H clothing and textiles projects, according to _____,
(name) (title)

"In the projects, the 4-H'ers learn about clothing construction, use of
textiles and consumerism, depending on their needs, interests and abilities,"
_____ says.
(name)

Younger members concentrate on simple sewing procedures, while more advanced
members learn consumerism in purchasing ready-to-wear, accessories, sewing equipment
and supplies. And even more advanced 4-H'ers may weave their own fabric for
clothing construction, or design their own garments, _____ notes.

(paragraph or paragraphs concerning local project activities.)

In the projects, the 4-H'ers are taught by volunteer leaders who "help" the
youths make decisions necessary for their project and guide them in completing
the project. The leaders are specially trained at county training sessions and
are indispensable to the 4-H clothing and textiles program, _____ says.
he/she

For more information about how you can enroll your son or daughter in 4-H
clothing and textile projects, or how you can become a volunteer leader contact
the county extension office at _____.
(telephone)

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FFA ELECTS OFFICERS, PRESENTS AWARDS

The Minnesota Future Farmers of America (FFA) elected officers for the coming year and presented numerous individual and chapter awards at wrap-up sessions of the group's annual convention this week in St. Paul.

Heading the organization for 1978-79 will be Robert Thell, president, Willmar; Jim Hoffman, vice president, Renville; Randy Young, secretary, Fairfax, Curt Youngs, treasurer, Winona; Bev Benson, reporter, Willmar and Dixie Berg, sentinel, Chokio-Alberta.

Winner in the job interview contest was Lori Knopik of Little Falls. Larry Kolstad of Eagle Bend won the agribusiness salesmanship award and Chuck Peterson, Cannon Falls, was first in the Dairy Holders Showmanship. The Renville FFA chapter finished first in parliamentary procedure.

Other contest winners were: cow clipping -- Jackie Howe, Hutchinson; creed speaking -- Peg Zenk, Danube; extemporaneous speaking -- Jim Hoffman, Renville; public speaking -- Evelyn Arthur, Kenyon; talent -- Brandon FFA chapter.

Team and individual winners in various categories included: agricultural mechanics -- LeRoy Ostrander (Tim Granhan, Mike King, John Bergan), Tim Granhan, top individual; crops -- Pierz (Kevin Voltin, Gregg Stangl, Roger Langer), Kevin Voltin, top individual; dairy cattle -- Norwood-Young America (Dale Schmidt, Steve Hever, Dean Hover), Shawn Mahoney, Cannon Falls, top individual; dairy products -- Glencoe (John Stenzel, Tim Mathews, Terry Gruenhagan), Randy Rausch, Mankato, top individual; farm management -- Canby (Walter Syltie II, Tim Eilers, Donald Dovre), Walter Syltie and Donald Dovre, tied up for top individual; forestry -- Pierz (Greg Faust, Pat Krepel, Brian Stangl), Greg Faust, top individual; general livestock -- Jackson (Steve Censky, George Brenda, Joleen Censky), George Brenda, top individual; horticulture -- Winona (Heidi Buman, Kris Hockbarth, Matt Shreater, Mary Welch), Alan Helbling, Pierz, top individual; meats -- Pipestone. (Bruce Novak, Joan Schmidt, Lori Stout), Gary Fokker, Canby, top individual; poultry -- Springfield, (Martin Little, Peggy Hacker, Connie Schultz). Tom Braegelmann, Rocori-Cold Spring, top individual; soils -- Lakeville (Randy Malz, Curt Storker, Ryan Wilson), Gary Ambrose, Jackson, top individual; wildlife -- Pierz (Duane Muncy, John Virnig, Dave Gross), John Virnig, top individual.

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