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

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

SPECIAL SHORT COURSE SCHEDULE (October 1978 - March 1979)

- October 5 Technology Transfer in Small Business Administration, Earle Brown Continuing Education Center, St. Paul Campus. This course is intended to present the technology, know-how, product and process information services available to aid independent inventors, agri-business and business people directly involved with the identification, acquisition, research, development, disposition or management of technology. *CN
- October 5 Beef Cattlemen's Institute, Crookston +
- October 7 Harvest Bowl, Earle Brown Continuing Education Center, St. Paul Campus. *CN
- October 9-13 American Association of Housing Educators - 1978 Annual Conference, Radisson Downtown, Minneapolis, MN. To further the educational and communication expertise of housing educators, researchers and persons in related areas. *CC
- October 9-10 Quality Assurance Workshop: Chefs' Food Preparation Workers' Course. St. Paul Campus 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
- October 14 Housing and Urban Development Consumer Forum "Housing Costs and Affordability". Earle Brown Continuing Education Center, St. Paul Campus. To explore the concerns of the young first time home buyer, the buyer who needs/wants a larger home and persons young and old need apartments--and of their difficulties in achieving their goals because of rapidly escalating housing costs. *CC

*For further information call The Office of Special Programs

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

+ For further information call the Research or Experiment Station designated.

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- October 20-21 North Central Regional Conference for College and University Teachers of Foods and Nutrition. Earle Brown Continuing Education Center, St. Paul Campus and Thunderbird Motel, Minneapolis, MN. To explore current research and innovative educational processes in foods and nutrition. *CC
- October 23-26 Property Valuation Short Course. A program for certified assessors to continue their education in the assessment field and for town board members to be brought up to date on problems concerning the board of review process. First date locations will be held on October 23, St. Cloud; October 24, Hibbing; October 25, Thief River Falls; October 26, Fergus Falls; October 31, Willmar; October 30, Marshall; November 1, Rochester; November 2, Eden Prairie. *GW
- October 30-November 2
- October 24 Commercial Flower Growers, Earle Brown Continuing Education Center, St. Paul Campus. For commercial flower growers, garden store operators and greenhouse managers. *RM
- October 25 Norwegian Farmers Study Tour. *FH
- October 25-26 Food Pest Management Training Conference, Sheraton Inn Northwest, Brooklyn Park, MN. For food processing, wholesale selling and manufacturing pesticide applicators, commercial fumigators, and structural pest control operators. *EA
- October 27-28 Minnesota Home Economics Association Legislative Workshop, Earle Brown Continuing Education Center, St. Paul Campus. To explore current issues and strategies for impacting on legislative processes. *CC
- October 31 Beginning Income Tax, October 31, Brainerd Holiday Inn; November 1, Austin, Cedar Inn; November 2, Marshall, Southwest State University. A one day short course designed for beginning income tax practitioners. Basic principles and practices will be covered regarding Minnesota state and federal income tax filing procedures. *CN
- November 1 & 2
- November 1 Forage Seed Dealers Forum, Earle Brown Continuing Education Center, St. Paul Campus. For wholesale forage seed dealers to promote communication between seedmen and researchers. *EA
- November 1-2 Annual Fall Conference for Veterinarians, Earle Brown Continuing Education Center, St. Paul Campus. For practicing veterinarians, animal technicians, college faculty and students. Program will feature large animal medicine on one day and small animal medicine on the other. *GW
- November 2 Institute of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics Faculty Reception, Earle Brown Continuing Education Center. *CC
- November 3 High School Visitor's Day, McNeal Hall, St. Paul Campus. To expose students to career opportunities in home economics as well as student life on the St. Paul Campus. *CC

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- November 10 Department of Food Science and Nutrition Advisory Council Meeting and Public Symposium. Earle Brown Continuing Education Center, St. Paul Campus. To explore the new national dietary goals and their effect on the food industry, academia, and consumers. *CC
- November 11 1st Annual Dairy Goat Conference, Earle Brown Continuing Education Center, St. Paul Campus. For dairy goat farmers to learn to : 1) Select and buy dairy goats more effectively, 2) select economical feeds and balance rations, 3) develop a herd health program, 4) develop a profitable marketing system, 5) determine production costs, 6) learn what a classification program is and how to use it best, and 7) learn what is happening in the goat industry. *GW
- November 13-14 Quality Assurance Workshop: Owner/Manager I Course. St. Paul Campus Student Center. The fifteen hour course emphasizes Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota Department of Health sanitation regulations and food microbiology. *CC
- November 20-22 Farm and Individual Income Tax, Radisson Downtown Hotel, Minneapolis, MN. For tax practitioners and consultants, accountants, lawyers, bankers, insurance agents, real estate agents, educators and others involved in preparing income tax returns. *CN
- November 28 3rd Marine Industry Conference, Sheraton Inn Northwest, Brooklyn Park, MN. This 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
- December 6-7 Stored Grain Pest Management Training Conference, Sheraton Inn Northwest, Brooklyn Park, MN. For country and terminal grain elevator personnel and others using chemical methods of pest control in stored grain. *EA
- December 11-12 Quality Assurance Workshop: Owner/Manager I Course. St. Paul Campus Student Center. The fifteen hour course emphasizes Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota Department of Health sanitation regulations and food microbiology. *CC
- December 12 Beef Day, Waseca. +
- December 12-13 Combined Soils, Fertilizer and Agricultural Pesticides Short Course, Minneapolis Auditorium. To present information on soils, fertilizers, and pesticides used in the production and marketing of food and fiber. For professional and technical personnel and those engaged in production agriculture. *EA
- January 2 Exchange Program Study Period Orientation, St. Paul Campus. *FH
- January 2-16 Winter Quarter Study Period for Exchange Program Participants. *FH

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- January 8-9 Quality Assurance Workshop: Chef's Food Preparation Workers' Course, St. Paul Campus 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
- January 9 Swine Day, Waseca TENTATIVE. +
- Jan. 9-11, 17-19, 1979 Home Sewage Treatment Workshops. Jan. 9-11, Owatonna;
Jan. 30-Feb. 1, Jan. 17-19, Anoka; Jan. 30-Feb. 1, Inver Grove Heights;
Feb. 6-8, 20-22, Feb. 6-8, Brainerd; Feb. 20-22, Alexandria; Feb. 27-Mar. 1,
Feb. 27-Mar. 1, Hopkins; March 20-22, Duluth; March 27-29, Arden Halls;
Mar. 20-22, 27-29, April 3-5, Bemidji,. For county planners, zoning officers,
Apr. 3-5 contractors, county planners, public health inspectors and
 building inspectors. *GW
- January 12 Quality Assurance Workshop: Owner/Manager II Course. St. Paul Student Center. An eight hour update on quality assurance for recertification. *CC
- January 15-16 Quality Assurance Workshop: Owner/Manager I Course. St. Paul Student Center. The fifteen hour course emphasizes Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota Department of Health sanitation regulations and food microbiology. *CC
- January 16 Nature Photography Short Course. Winter Photography. Student Center, St. Paul Campus, 7-9 p.m. For amateur photographers and naturalists interested in recording the natural world with a camera. *EA
- January 30 Winter Crops Day, Waseca. +
- Jan. 30, Feb. 6, Planning your Dairy Future. St. Cloud Holiday Inn. A 4-day workshop for the professional dairyman considering expansion, replacing obsolete and inefficient facilities or improving his profit potential by the wise use of land, labor, capital and management resources. *GW
- Jan. 30, Feb. 6&13 Managing your Hog Future. Jan. 30, Feb. 6 & 13, Zumbrota; Jan. 31,
Jan. 31, Feb. 7&14 Feb. 7 & 14, Rushford; Feb. 1, 8, & 15, Austin. A 3-day workshop for the professional hog farmer who is considering expansion, replacing obsolete and inefficient facilities, or improving his profit by the wise use of his land, labor, capital and management resources. *GW
- Feb. 1, 8 & 15
- Feb. (date to be Food Day, 1979. Duluth, MN. For home economists, home economics announced) educators, and other persons interested in current topics and controversies related to food science and nutrition. *CC
- Feb. 5-16 Lumberman'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 personnel in the building supply field. For lumber and building material industry personnel and people working with the lumber industry in support activities. *EA

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- Feb. 7 Garden Store Operators. Virginia, MN. Updated horticultural information and current business trends and problems. For nurserymen, florists and store operators. *RM
- February 10 Green Holiday Short Course, Earle Brown Continuing Education Center. (subject to be announced). *RM
- Feb. 12-13 Quality Assurance Workshop: Owner/Manager I, St. Paul Campus Student Center. The fifteen hour course emphasizes Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota Department of Health sanitation regulations and food microbiology. *CC
- February 16-25 RRV Winter Shows, Crookston. +
- Feb. 26-28 COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE WEEK - Earle Brown Continuing Education Center. February 26 - SHADE TREE Short Course. Demonstrations and information on shade tree maintenance techniques. For arboriculturists, nurserymen, park administrators, landscape maintenance superintendents and all individuals concerned with shade tree preservation. February 27 - TURF MANAGEMENT Short Course. 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. February 27 KERMIT OLSEN MEMORIAL LECTURE - evening. February 28 - GARDEN STORE OPERATORS Short Course. Update horticultural information and current business trends and problems. For nurserymen, florists and store operators. *RM
- March 5-8, 12-13, 19-22, Apr. 3-5 Commercial Applicators Pesticide Workshops: March 5-6, Rochester; March 6-7, Owatonna; March 7-8, Mankato; March 12-13, St. Paul; March 19-20, Marshall; March 20-21, Morris; March 21-22, St. Cloud; April 3-4, Crookston; April 4-5, Grand Rapids. For pesticide dealers, custom applicators, educators and regulatory personnel. The first day at each location is introductory information for persons planning to take license examination. The second day will provide update information on plant and animal pest problems and pesticide for licensed applicators and will meet renewal requirements for 1980 licenses. *EA
- March 5, 7, 12, 19, 20 & April 4 Municipal Tree Inspectors Workshops: March 5, Rochester; March 7, Mankato; March 12, St. Paul; March 19, Marshall; March 20, Detroit Lakes; April 4, Grand Rapids. Update training for tree inspectors. Attendance will qualify Minnesota Tree Inspectors for recertification. *EA
- March 6 Dairy Day, Waseca. +
- March 6-9 Better Process Control, Earle Brown Continuing Education Center. Provides training, examination, and certification for employees of canning factories. *GW
- March 7-9 Minnesota Commercial Aerial Applicators Workshop, Arrowwood Lodge, Alexandria. Designed for aerial pesticide dealers. To provide information of plant and animal pest problems and pesticides accreditation for retention of the pesticide applicator's license. *RM

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- March 12-13 Quality Assurance Workshop: Owner/Manager I, St. Paul Campus Student Center. The fifteen hour course emphasizes Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota Department of Health sanitation regulations and food microbiology. *CC
- March 14-15 Pest Control Operators Conference, Sheraton Inn Northwest, Brooklyn Park, MN. Information of identification, prevention and safe control of structural pests. Attendance will qualify structural pest control operators for recertification. *EA
- March 14-15 Sugarbeet Growers Institute, Crookston. +
- March 16 Exchange Program Participant Graduation. *FH
- March 18-19 Commercial Small Fruit Growers, Earle Brown Continuing Education Center. For commercial small fruit growers. *RM
- March 20 Livestock Industry Day, Waseca. +
- March 21 Dairy Day, Crookston. +
- March 23-24 Beekeepers' Management Short Course for Beginners, St. Paul Campus. For persons interested in becoming a beekeeper as a hobby or commercially and others interested in bees. *EA

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GOOD RETURNS MAY
HELP STABILIZE
SHEEP NUMBERS

Slaughter lamb prices are expected to increase somewhat from late summer levels over the remaining months of 1978, due to a slight decline in numbers and an increase in demand.

Feeder lambs will continue to sell at prices about \$5 per hundredweight above slaughter lambs and fed lamb prices during the first half of 1979 will likely return to the high \$50's to mid-\$60 per hundredweight range, say Kenneth Egertson and Richard Hawkins, agricultural economists at the University of Minnesota.

"Favorable returns experienced in the sheep industry in recent years should begin to make sheep production somewhat more attractive than it has been. This may mean that sheep numbers, which have been dropping in recent years, may reach a stable level in the future," the economists said.

Wool prices have continued to be strong in the face of reduced world supplies and increased demand. Wool prices are expected to range about the same as earlier levels throughout much of the 1978-1979 marketing year.

Profits from native ewe flocks should be nearly as good again in 1979 due to expected strong fed lamb prices and about the same production costs. For the average herd flock owner, the breakeven level on a 105 pound lamb would be around \$45 to \$50 per hundredweight.

Feeder lamb prices are expected to weaken somewhat from current prices over the fall months of this year and average in the low to mid-\$60's--about \$20 per hundredweight above levels of a year earlier.

Fed lamb prices should continue to be strong in the first half of 1979. A normal seasonal upturn in prices should be expected into the winter and spring months of 1979, but will not peak as high as was the case for the past two years, they said.

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CA, IA, 4-L

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MAJORITY OF "FARMERS"
EARN MORE OFF THE FARM

Most part-time and hobby farmers lack the business size to make a living from farming despite higher farm prices this year, says University of Minnesota agricultural economist Paul Hasbargen.

Although overall U.S. farm income is expected to be a record \$25 billion in 1978, two-thirds of all farms netted an average of only \$2281 in 1977, according to a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture report. These 1.8 million farms grossed less than \$20,000 and had off-farm incomes that averaged six times as much as their net farm incomes (\$13,596 vs. \$2281).

"A small percentage of these families may be trying to make a living from farming, but the overwhelming majority must be considered rural residents and part-time farmers who prefer country living but don't expect to earn their living from farming. Yet these 1.87 million farm units are usually lumped together with the 831,000 farm operators who have sales of over \$20,000," Hasbargen says.

Full-time commercial farmers usually gross more than \$40,000. The net farm incomes for the half-million commercial units in the three largest size categories averaged between \$18,500 and \$48,000 for an overall average of \$24,794 in 1977.

This same group of farms should show average net farm incomes of about \$30,000 in 1978. In addition, they will have average non-farm incomes of some \$7,000.

"Obviously, the price and income policy needs of this group of commercial farmers is quite different than those of the low-resource farmers who lack adequate business size to make a living from farming, even with sharply higher farm prices," says Hasbargen.

Overall U.S. farm income is expected to jump to \$25 billion in 1978, compared to \$20 billion in 1977. This is due to the farm bill with its grain provisions, higher livestock prices, plus a strong world demand for U.S. grains that resulted in increased crop prices.

add 1--majority of "farmers"

Although 1979 farm income may drop below this \$25 billion figure because of steadily inflating costs, Hasbargen says there's potential for an even higher net income. "It will take a combination of strong foreign demand plus higher participation in the government farm program--especially the reserve storage program.

"By type of farm, we see an excellent income outlook for dairy, beef and hog producers; a good outlook for poultry and soybean producers; and a more moderate one for corn and small grain producers."

About 1.2 million farmers initially signed up for the 1978 feedgrains and wheat programs. But many, especially corn farmers, decided against participation, according to Martin Christianson, another University of Minnesota agricultural economist. Preliminary indications are that compliance will be about 85 percent of the wheat acreage originally signed up; 60 percent of the corn acreage; and 80 percent for grain sorghum and barley. The final figures will be available sometime in September.

Regarding the loan program, about 35 to 40 percent of the corn harvested will be eligible; 70 to 75 percent of the sorghum; 65 to 70 percent of the barley; and 75 to 80 percent of the wheat. "Fairly high participation in the loan program will be necessary if the program is to provide an effective price floor for grains. How effective the loan program will be in providing a price floor for corn at harvest time remains to be seen," Hasbargen says.

More information on farm income, farm policy and commodities will soon be available in a publication entitled "1979 Agricultural Outlook." It will be available from county extension offices or the Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108.

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CA, IA, 4-L, 4-FC, 4-D

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INTEREST CONTINUES
IN DELAYED GRAIN
PRICE CONTRACTS

Two common types of delayed grain price contracts are being promoted in Minnesota this fall, points out Will Anthony, extension grain marketing specialist at the University of Minnesota.

One lets you deliver the old crop that's now in storage on a delayed pricing contract. Some of them give you until September of 1979 to price the crop out. There are no service charges and no storage space requirements. Using soybeans as an example, Anthony makes some general observations on delayed price contracts for old crop soybeans:

--If you deliver soybeans on a delayed price contract, you make money if the futures price rises and/or the cash market rises relative to the futures.

--The current demand for cash soybeans has been quite strong. This means the basis between cash and futures markets has been narrow. (Basis is the difference between cash price at seller's point of delivery and futures price of a designated month at the Chicago Board of Trade.)

"There have been some times in the past when the soybean basis has been narrower than it is now, but not very many," Anthony says. The basis is at the narrow end of its usual range. "This means a farmer stands to gain more if he wants to speculate by selling the cash soybeans and buying the futures contract."

The second common type of delayed price contract is on the new crop. You deliver to a buyer at harvest and price the crop later in the year. You pay a service charge, which is probably roughly equivalent to a regular storage charge. Such a contract allows you to speculate on the cash crop even if you have no storage space. Whether a delayed price contract on the new crop looks attractive to you depends on how the service charges compare with alternative storage costs.

add 1--delayed grain contracts

"There are some problems with delayed price contracts," Anthony says. One is that the farmer gives up possession and perhaps title to the grain. You don't have the security of a warehouse receipt.

"This bothers lenders and it may bother you," says Anthony.

"You want to feel comfortable about the financial condition of the buyer before you do it. Do business only with an established grain buyer--one where your judgement tells you there's little risk."

There's also the problem of loan security for your lender. "Talk to your banker before you sign any of these contracts. This is especially important if you have a crop lien," Anthony says. Your lender could be left without security on the loan if you deliver grain on a delayed price contract.

Another problem is that many people feel that delayed contracts allow grain handlers and processors to get possession of the grain without having to bid up market prices to get it. "For an individual this isn't a problem. But if a large volume is generated it could hurt the price structure," says Anthony.

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WHO GETS CREDIT
FOR BRILLIANT FALL COLORS?

Tales of Jack Frost and Mother Nature's paintbrush capture the imagination in fall when leaves are turning vivid colors. But the credit for our fall kaleidoscope really goes to the chemical processes taking place in the tree as summer gives way to fall and winter, according to Carol Czaia, assistant extension forester at the University of Minnesota.

She explains that the food-making process necessary for the tree's growth takes place in the leaves in cells containing the green pigment chlorophyll. But the leaves also contain yellow or orange pigments, which are masked by the greater amounts of chlorophyll through the spring and summer.

In the fall, however, temperatures drop and the days grow shorter so the leaves stop their food-making process. The chlorophyll breaks down and the green color disappears. The yellow is revealed.

Although yellow is a basic color of fall foliage, Ms. Czaia says other chemical changes add new colors to the autumn scene. Warm, sunny days followed by cool nights cause sugar to form in the leaves and this encourages the formation of other pigments such as red anthocyanin. When the chlorophyll breaks down in leaves where anthocyanin has formed, the leaves show red.

The same tree can vary its color from season to season depending on the weather conditions, Ms. Czaia says. For example, during a warm, cloudy, wet fall the leaves may turn reddish, but they will lack brilliance. This is because a smaller amount of sugar is made in reduced sunlight and it moves out of the leaves during the mild nights, leaving little to form pigments. The best conditions for high leaf color are sunny days, slightly dry conditions, moderate day temperatures and cool nights.

add 1--who gets credit

Some colors are typical of certain types of trees. She says that red maple and sumac generally turn bright red while sugar maple turns to an orange-yellow. Boxelder, Norway maple, silver maple, paper birch, catalpa, ginkgo, honeylocust, Kentucky coffee tree, aspen, basswood and American elm turn yellow. Alders and locust show little change. Oaks turn red to brown.

To see some of nature's best fall color, Ms. Czaia recommends driving along Minnesota 95 along the St. Croix River, Minnesota 13 through Jordan and south to the area between Mankato and Owatonna, U.S. 61 through Lake City to Winona, the North Shore Drive and along the Minnesota River Valley. Northern and northeastern Minnesota are generally colorful throughout, and don't overlook the handiest leaf viewing of all--a walk in your own neighborhood, she urges.

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DAIRYING WILL CONTINUE
TO BE PROFITABLE,
ECONOMISTS SAY

Strong demand for dairy products, coupled with seasonally declining milk supplies and low commercial stocks, have lifted wholesale dairy product prices above support levels. This condition should remain throughout the fall months, according to Martin Christiansen and Ken Thomas, University of Minnesota agricultural economists.

"Milk prices in 1979 will likely hover near support levels during the increasing milk production months and then shift above supports--perhaps substantially--as milk production declines seasonally," they say.

Lower milk production and a stronger sales picture, together with commercial stocks at low levels compared to current and expected sales, have boosted wholesale markets for butter and cheese. And as milk production declines seasonally through the fall months, it is likely that wholesale markets will continue to show strength.

"This should lift prices farmers receive for manufacturing milk above the support level for most of the rest of the year," they noted.

Fairly high culling rates and a favorable milk-feed price relationship suggests that milk production for 1979 will be about 122 billion pounds--the same as the amount expected for 1978.

Prices received by dairymen in 1979 might be expected to rest at about the support level during the months when milk production is increasing but then move above the support level in months of declining production. However, if dairymen cull heavily, prices could move up quite sharply.

The management implications of this forecast, Christiansen and Thomas said, include:

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add 1--dairying will continue

With an abundant, relatively low-priced feed supply and rising milk prices, most Minnesota dairy producers should feed for higher production per cow and keep their facilities operating at full capacity.

Production of early cut, high protein forages will continue to be an important key to success for many Minnesota dairymen, particularly by late 1979 if soybean meal prices increase as expected.

Dairy producers may want to take advantage of the low current prices on soybean meal to contract or purchase ahead for at least part of their 1979 needs.

Dairying will continue to be profitable and compete strongly for resources. This situation, coupled with the underlying stability provided by the dairy price support program should make this a good time for the above average dairyman to consider expanding and modernizing his dairy unit.

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CORN EXPECTED TO
AVERAGE ABOUT \$2.20

Corn prices are expected to be about \$2.20 per bushel for the average seasonal November-July price, although several factors may still influence the price considerably, according to University of Minnesota Agricultural Economists who recently reviewed grain supply and demand conditions.

"The weather could still be a significant factor affecting 1978-1979 grain production and prices. An early frost in the corn belt could significantly reduce 1978 corn prospects and decrease the feeding value of the harvested crop. Weather in the southern hemisphere will affect world supplies and prices in early 1979," noted Paul R. Hasbargen, a University of Minnesota extension economist.

Additionally, if more than half of the projected carryover stocks is put into government grain reserve, some rather strong price increases are likely during any 1979 crop scares next spring and summer. However, the government loan and reserve programs should minimize the downside risk in corn prices next spring, even if subsequent supply demand developments result in expectations of a significant increase in carryover stock.

Oat prices for the season are likely to average no more than 55 percent of the corn price. A \$1.00 per bushel difference between oat and corn prices is likely to continue in the next marketing year.

Barley production is up again in 1978 and feed quality barley prices in the Red River Valley should run slightly over the \$1.70 loan rate level. With feed barley in this range, some consideration to the alternative of hog feeding might be warranted, according to Hasbargen.

-more-

add 1--corn expected to average

A second successive large corn harvest in Minnesota expected this fall would keep downward pressure on prices, especially in areas that are short on storage space.

To minimize marketing risks, Will Anthony, extension economist in marketing, suggested the following management practices.

Plan marketing strategy early in the year. For most cash corn producers this will involve storing corn at harvest if it has not been contracted at a forward price for delivery this fall.

Take opportunities to price some of your corn when prices move above your seasonal price expectation. Remember to consider storage costs on later deliveries.

Give consideration to expanded livestock feeding as an alternative to marketing your corn.

Carefully manage your drying and storage operations. Over-drying consumes excess fuel and results in costly shrink. Spoilage in the bin also is costly and may force sales when you would not otherwise want to sell.

CA, IA, 4-L

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UM ECONOMIST
GIVES TURKEY
EGG FORECAST

Egg prices should reach \$.65 (New York Cartoned basis) late this fall and run \$.03 to \$.08 above year earlier levels for much of 1979, according to Earl Fuller, University of Minnesota agricultural economist.

"Numbers of layers have declined during the summer and are expected to be below year earlier levels this fall and through early 1979, creating a favorable marketing situation," Fuller said.

Prices for 1979 are expected to follow a seasonal pattern similar to 1978 through late summer, running \$.03 to \$.08 higher for much of the year. Late spring prices will likely be in the mid-50's before seasonal recovery to the mid-60's by late summer.

"There is some economic merit in tying up funds by forward contracting feed this fall. In particular soybean meal prices are likely to strengthen through the winter. If delivery can be taken, harvest time purchase of grain should be considered," he said.

Although egg prices are expected to be up, turkey prices likely will be down due to an expected eight or nine per cent increase in production. If this increase in production materializes, prices could decline to \$.53 to \$.57 per pound by mid-1979, Fuller noted.

Turkey prices have been strong despite increases in production throughout much of 1978, largely because of the sharply higher red meat prices. With continued strong demand, prices should be at \$.65 levels for hens in New York this fall. The substantial production increases into 1979 will probably result in a decline in price by summer.

Turkey producers should watch for indications that seasonal buyers have bought ahead. If they have, demand will be less this fall.

As always, Fuller suggests, watch turkey stock reports, slaughter and chick hatchings. Cyclical adjustments continue as the norm for the industry.

Forward prices of turkeys and feed should be considered regularly but a manager needs to know and control his cost structure carefully to make the right forward pricing decisions.

A good reference for poultry producers to use in making decisions is Poultry and Egg Situation, and ERS-USDA quarterly release. Requests to be added to the mailing list should be directed to ERS-USDA, Washington, D.C. 20200.

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ECONOMIST GIVES
BEEF OUTLOOK TIPS

While monthly fed cattle marketings will remain at record levels for October and September, the number of nonfed marketings will be down some 15 to 20 percent from year earlier levels, according to Paul R. Hasbargen, University of Minnesota agricultural economist.

"The sharp decline in nonfed marketings will mean that total beef supplies will be about five percent less than in late 1977," he added.

Because of the wide variation in demand and prices experienced in the last 6 months, it is difficult to know just what demand to expect for the rest of the year. However, Hasbargen forecasts that choice steer prices for the remainder of the year will fluctuate near the \$52 per hundredweight level plus or minus \$3 or \$4. Prices may show weakness in September and October, with an expected strengthening by year's end, he said.

Since cattle numbers have declined so sharply since 1975, the stage is set for a significant reduction in beef supplies in 1979 and 1980 with per capita beef supplies of carcass beef dropping at least 8 lbs. in '79.

Total steer and heifer slaughter will be maintained at near year earlier levels until mid-1979 but will drop significantly below this year's level after that time. Total steer and heifer marketings in late 1979 will probably be down some six to eight percent from late 1978. For the year as a whole, total steer and heifer marketings will be down three to five percent from 1978 marketings--even if reduced calf slaughter and increased feeder cattle imports add over a million head to the total for 1979.

Cow slaughter could be down by as much as 15 to 20 percent in 1979 if forage supplies remain plentiful throughout the year. If cow slaughter drops 15 percent and steer and heifer slaughter drops four to five percent, the total drop in beef production would be seven to eight percent from 1978.

"Looking at the demand side, there will be increased competition from both pork and poultry. Although income growth is expected again in 1979, many economists expect a significant slow-down in economic growth before the next year is over. More importantly, the exceptionally strong shift in demand for all meat in 1978 may not be carried over into 1979," said Hasbargen.

-more-

add 1--economist gives beef outlook tips

The supply situation expected would suggest prices will be in the low \$50's per hundredweight in the early part of the year and in the higher \$50's per hundredweight after mid-year 1979. Although runaway demand may push prices higher at mid season.

"Given the bullish supply situation, we would point out that we consider the odds to be very small that choice cattle prices would be below \$50 for any extended period in 1979. On the other hand, there are odds of at least 20 percent that choice cattle prices could be over \$60 for at least one or two months in 1979," Hasbargen said.

With better price prospects, opportunities for increased earnings through improved management are even greater, Hasbargen said. He recommends the following management practices during 1979:

Take advantage of high market run-ups, such as the one this past May, to do some forward pricing. Avoid buying cattle at such times.

Where cow herd expansion fits the farm, do it now to take full advantage of the strong feeder prices expected during the next few years. Keep all yearling heifers and buy additional bred heifers and cows this fall before cow herd "expansion fever" becomes widespread.

Those short of forage and financing might best sell calves on the relatively strong fall market.

Retaining ownership of yearlings into custom feedlots is an alternative for those who believe that the cattle market will be significantly stronger next spring. Custom feedlot charges must be evaluated, probable costs and returns must be projected and risk of market losses might be at least partially offset by timely use of forward contracts when the opportunity becomes available.

Cull-cows should be sold as early each summer as possible.

Buy feeder calves when the prices are low--usually in December prices for calves drop seven percent below their average yearly price and yearlings are four percent below their average. The drop may be slightly earlier this year if fat cattle prices strengthen after October.

Use your own costs and outlook prices to compare different feeding programs. Heifers still appear to be at bargain prices--however this may change by late fall if there is a significant increase in herd expansion.

If storage is available, harvest time grain prices will offer an excellent opportunity.

Keep current on the supply-demand situation for livestock. The Livestock and Meat Situation is a quarterly USDA publication that provides livestock producers with current data on the supplies, demand and prices of livestock and meat. Requests to be added to the mailing list can be sent to USDA/ESCS/CED, 500 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250

CA, IA, 4-L

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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
September 5, 1978

Immediate release

HOG PRICES MAY
DROP TO LOW \$40's
BY LATE '79

Hog prices are likely to decline to the mid-\$40 per hundredweight before the end of 1978 and remain at that level through much of the first half of 1979, before dropping to the low-\$40 per hundredweight in late 1979. That's the projection of Kenneth Egertson and Paul Hasbargen, agricultural economists at the University of Minnesota.

"With production costs approximately the same in 1979 as in 1978, hog producers will continue to show profits through most of 1979," they said.

Hog marketings in the first half of 1979 will come largely from the June-November 1978 pig crop. Farrowings over this period are expected to expand in the range of two to four percent for the summer quarter and six to nine percent for the fall quarter.

In the first half of 1979, slaughter hog prices will likely average from five to eight percent less than a year ago, which would put them in a range of \$43 to \$46 per hundred. This may decline to a range of \$45 to \$42 by the second half of 1979.

Hog producers are currently making breeding plans which will greatly influence the size of winter (December-February) and spring (March-May) farrowings. Most indicators at this time point to continued expansion in farrowings for both quarters.

"The probability is better than 80 percent that both winter and spring quarter U.S. sow farrowings will increase within a range from 8 to 12 percent. The chances are also quite good that this expansion predicted for the spring of 1979 could easily carry over into the last half of 1979," the economists noted.

-more-

add 1--hog prices may drop

These expected strong increases in winter and spring 1979 farrowings will keep slaughter levels high in second-half 1979. However, the normal seasonal decline in third quarter slaughter will mean about 20 million hogs will be slaughtered again in that quarter.

"Part of this expected increase in pork supplies by late 1979 could be offset by strong demand for pork coming from sharply higher beef prices. It appears quite likely that hog prices could show some normal seasonal strength in price to the mid-to high-\$40's per hundredweight in third quarter 1979. Feeder pigs prices for 40 pound feeder pigs could be as low as \$33 per head by late 1979," the economists said.

By late 1979, profits on both complete hog enterprises and feeder pig units could be approaching breakeven levels for some producers. However, it doesn't appear likely that a sub-profitable situation will develop until into 1980.

They suggest these management guidelines:

Carrying hogs to heavier weights during a declining market should be carefully considered.

It usually pays (in the declining phase of the hog price cycle) to watch for price contracting opportunities. As long as contract prices adjusted to local area above breakeven levels, they become possible marketing alternatives.

Hog producers may want to take advantage of the low current price on soybean meal to contract or purchase ahead for at least a part of their 1979 needs.

Buy additional feedgrains needed for coming year during harvest price lows.

With increasing conception problems showing up in many herds, prudent management will keep additional breeding stock to be sure that expensive hog facilities are used to capacity.

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Immediate release

SEASONAL SOYBEAN PRICE
PEGGED AT \$6.25-\$6.75

October-June 1978-1979 Minneapolis seasonal average price for soybeans is projected to be from \$6.25 to \$6.75 per bushel, and soybean meal price is projected to be from \$170 to \$180 per ton, according to Kenneth Egertson and Willis Anthony, agricultural economists at the University of Minnesota.

"It appears that the seasonal pattern will be for lower prices at harvest, followed by strength through the winter and early spring," they said.

Storage space for soybeans will be at a premium this fall, they caution. However, if storage is available, the amount of seasonal price strength will depend on factors such as the final size of the U.S. and Brazilian soybean crops, export levels, domestic consumption and the crushing margin, but nonetheless will likely be enough to consider storage at harvest.

Storage paid good returns in 1977-1978 and should pay well again in 1978-1979, but should be linked with a marketing management plan. Producers who do some price averaging through the season will probably come out well in the year ahead.

"The seasonal average price will help in constructing a marketing plan. When market prices are below these levels, think about holding. Calculate storage costs and compare those with your projected seasonal price expectations," they suggested.

The strong domestic soybean meal utilization which contributed to strong prices in 1977-1978 could develop again in 1978-1979. Current livestock projections predict increases in hog, poultry and cattle feeding in 1978-1979, adding credence in the belief that meal prices will remain strong.

-more-

add 1--seasonal soybean price

Soybean oil demand has been very strong in recent years and is expected to continue strong in the year ahead. Although U.S. oil exports are expected to decline somewhat due to competition from Brazilian oil, Malaysian palm oil, Canadian rapeseed oil and Russian sunflower oil, domestic demand of soybean oil should keep total utilization at a level quite similar to a year earlier.

"A projected price of soybean oil of about \$.23 per pound appears likely. This would put oil prices slightly below last year," they said.

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CA, IA, 4-FC

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Immediate release

WHEAT PRICES TO
AVERAGE HIGHER
THAN LAST YEAR

Wheat prices in the 1978-1979 marketing year will average higher than in 1977-1978, forecast Kenneth Egertson and Willis Anthony, agricultural economists at the University of Minnesota.

"Prices are expected to average 15 to 20 percent above 1977-1978, at about \$3 to \$3.25 per bushel, Minneapolis," Egertson and Anthony said.

World food grain production is estimated to be about five percent above last year; wheat production is up about eight percent; rice production is up about four percent. Growth in world foodgrain consumption will be up about five percent also, making production and consumption in approximate balance.

Carryover stocks at 110 to 120 million metric tons, are equivalent to about a 2-month supply. This means that if 1979 foodgrain crop prospects look good, foreign importers will not be particularly aggressive buyers. If crop prospects look doubtful, demand will be very strong since the stocks' cushion is not great.

Domestic food use of wheat has been trending upward at about two percent each year. Due to inventory changes and flour exports, the year-to-year changes vary somewhat. Following the trend increase, domestic food use would total about 505 million bushels in 1978-1979.

Wheat livestock feeding was high last year because wheat was cheap relative to feedgrains early in the season. Corn prices now have been below wheat. It is likely that wheat feeding will decline to about 100 million bushels.

-more-

add 1--wheat prices

"Current Minneapolis cash and contract prices appear to be strong in view of the projected large supplies of wheat and potential carryover. More price strength could possibly develop during the early part of the marketing year depending on how strongly producers feel about price increase and hold tightly to stored wheat," they said.

With prices now above the loan rate of \$2.35 per bushel and with not all wheat production eligible for the loan program this year, movement of the 1978 crop wheat under loan may be well below the 548 million bushels placed under loan from the 1977 crop. The 1978-1979 prices could be influenced by the degree of producer sign-up under the 1979 wheat program.

For producers, Egertson and Anthony recommend the following management tips:

Decide on how many bushels you can afford to be a market speculator and on how much you want to minimize price risk.

Lay out your cash flow needs in conjunction with your grain sale program.

Know your storage cost on wheat now in storage.

Know your pricing alternatives in the cash contract and futures markets. You may have opportunities to price wheat to profitably take out of storage at a later date.

Don't forget about the market even if your wheat is in the government grain reserve or under loan. Historically, when there have been substantial amounts of wheat under government loan, market prices at some point during the year have risen enough to pull wheat into the market to have them receded as the market was supplied.

Additionally, they recommend watching these factors throughout the year:

The pace of wheat exports, as shown in weekly shipments and commitments data.

Weather developments in southern hemisphere countries through winter which might affect their harvest by our spring 1979.

Any sign of entry into our market of a new major foreign buyer, such as the People's Republic of China.

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ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

PARENTS' DUTIES CONTINUE
ONCE SCHOOL BEGINS

Whew--the kids are back in school. That sense of let-down and relief after a busy summer is natural, suggests Ronald Pitzer, extension family life specialist at the University of Minnesota.

He cautions, however, against signing over all responsibility for the kind of education your children receive. "No matter how active we have been in a child's informal education at home, we lean heavily on the schools where his or her more formal learning will take place," Pitzer says.

"Thoughtful parents want to know what's happening at the school, what the aims of the teachers are and how they, as parents, can help their children get all they can out of their school years," he says.

Parents should make school visits, Pitzer suggests. They help teachers get a feeling for what the child's family and home life is. Children sense that when parents take the time to visit school or attend parent-teacher meetings that school is important. This can help keep their attitudes fresh and eager.

By keeping in touch with school, parents may also find that they can supplement what goes on there. For example, Pitzer says, a parent who sits in on a classroom social studies lesson may be reminded of a map or pictures at home that the child might want to bring to class. Or discussion of a certain area could prompt family members to say, "Why don't we drive there some Sunday and learn more about it?"

Pitzer adds, "Parents need to be on the alert to foster children's interests and abilities, any one of which may have an influence on vocational choice."

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4-H NEWS

Immediate release

4-H--CHANGING
THROUGH THE YEARS

For the 5,500 4-H'ers exhibiting in St. Paul last week, the State Fair was the culmination of a year's hard work, according to Leonard Harkness, director of Minnesota 4-H activities.

"The 4-H'ers exhibiting at the State Fair are a very select group, representing some 73,000 other 4-H'ers in the state. To be eligible to exhibit at the State Fair, the 4-H'ers must first win in county competition. In this way, the state fair represents that top 4-H exhibits in the state," Harkness said.

Harkness, who has been director of Minnesota 4-H for the past 29 years, said that 4-H has changed dramatically through the years, starting as a rural youth organization and then becoming a youth organization for all youths regardless of residence.

"When I started in 4-H years ago, 4-H membership was 80 percent rural. Now we have 46 percent rural and 54 percent urban youth involved," he explained.

As the state became more urbanized through the years, legislators saw a need to bring the same quality program as we had in the rural areas to the city. And 4-H came to urban youths while keeping the same quality program for rural kids, he said.

"We now have projects that appeal to rural as well as urban 4-H'ers. And the two groups aren't as far apart as they used to be, he said. Rural kids are interested in about the same projects that urban kids are interested in. The only difference is that we use slightly different means to the same ends, he said.

Minnesota 4-H projects run the gamut from aerospace to zoology projects--more than a 100 projects in all--to help youth become better citizens today and to assume leadership tomorrow, Harkness said.

While 4-H has changed over the years to accomodate changing lifestyles of the kids, kids themselves haven't changed greatly over the years, he said. They still are interested in action projects--projects that they can work on with their peers, he said.

-more-

add 1--4-H changing

Kids are more articulate today than they were a few years ago, and they are more sophisticated in dealing with their world, but they still have the same desire to achieve--to become better persons, he said.

"I anticipate that kids will still be kids years from now and that 4-H will change to reflect new styles of living. We'll have more leader involvement, and technology will make for great changes in how we accomplish our goals. But kids won't change much," he said.

IA,CA,Youth

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University of Minnesota
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Tel. (612) 373-0710
September 6, 1978

ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

WOOL'S POPULARITY IS REAWAKENING

Whether it's lowered thermostats or a general disenchantment with hot-in-summer, cold-in-winter polyester, one thing seems clear--wool is enjoying a new burst of popularity.

This is the observation of Karen Fadden, director of the Make It Yourself With Wool contest, and Karen Meyerhoff, manager of the Wool 'n Shop, the retail outlet for the North Central Wool Marketing Association.

The Minnesota Wool Growers Association which is one sponsor of the 4-H Lamb Lead event at the Minnesota State Fair, is naturally pleased with the interest in wool.

Ms. Fadden says, "Many of the top designers in Paris and New York are calling this 'The Year of the Good Wools' with wool being featured in everything from sheerest gauze and voile to heavy, elegant mohair and angora."

The return to wool is part of a renewed interest in all natural fibers, says Ms. Meyerhoff. "The energy shortage has had two effects on us. It has made people seek warmer clothing for indoor wear, and it has awakened people to the folly in using non-renewable resources. What's more renewable than wool? It comes from an animal that eats grass and can be sheared many times."

Improvements in wool have also made it more appealing to consumers, Ms. Meyerhoff says. Most wool is now washable if handled with care and, when blended with small amounts of other fibers, it can take on a variety of fashion looks.

With prices for all clothing rising, consumers are looking for quality and this has brought some buyers back to wool, Ms. Meyerhoff says. "We sell a lot of wool garments to people who say that they are finally replacing a favorite

add 1--wool's popularity

wool shirt or sweater after eight or ten years of hard use. During that same time they may have worn and discarded several similar garments of synthetic fabrics. They see the wool item as an investment."

Both Ms. Meyerhoff and Ms. Fadden see the appeal of shearling wool coats, hats and boots as a healthy trend for the wool industry. Ms. Fadden says, "In some cases, designers use a shearling look that isn't wool, but even that increases the awareness of wool's attractiveness and heightens the demand for the real thing."

In addition to the shearling rage, the two women note other trends in wool buying that focus on classic styles. "We are seeing an interest in Harris tweeds, classic wool plaids and luxury wools such as cashmere again," Ms. Meyerhoff says. "The taste for wool is definitely there. Now our challenge is to educate consumers on how to buy and care for wool--not that it is difficult, but it is different than what they may be used to with synthetics."

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Immediate release

6 15

SOIL TESTING LEADS
TO GOOD ECONOMICS

Testing soil in late summer or early fall gives you time to plan a fall fertilization program.

Fall fertilization can help relieve the spring time crunch. It also reduces some of the soil compaction that you normally find with bulk fertilizer spreading operations, says Bob Shoper, extension soils specialist at the University of Minnesota.

There are also advantages to applying lime in the fall. "In many areas of the state poor alfalfa stands have been related to acid soil conditions. This acidity can be corrected with lime, but it takes from six to 18 months for the lime to react with the soil to counteract the soil acidity," Shoper says. So if you're going to seed alfalfa next spring, do your soil testing and liming this fall.

However, recommendations for lime and fertilizer will be accurate only if the soil sample represents the field. This means you should avoid areas such as dead furrows, fertilizer bands, old fence rows and old farmsteads. Don't take samples close to crushed rock roads since lime dust will settle on the edge of fields, leading to an inaccurate lime recommendation.

Shoper says soil testing boils down to economics--applying the proper amount of nutrients for optimum yields. Soil sample containers and more detailed information on testing programs are available from county extension offices or the Soil Testing Laboratory, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108.

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University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
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Immediate release

STORED GRAIN
TRAINING COURSE

Current information on pest control in stored grain facilities will be presented at a Stored Grain Pest Management Training Conference sponsored by the University of Minnesota on Dec. 6-7.

Country and terminal grain elevator personnel and others using chemical methods of pest control in stored grain are invited to attend the conference. The two-day course will also help participants recognize the importance of mechanical breakage, drying methods and storage structures in grain storage.

The conference will enable currently licensed fumigators to be relicensed and will provide training for participants wanting to become licensed in pest control of stored grain facilities.

The Stored Grain Pest Management course will meet initial and renewal license requirements of Minnesota and neighboring states. Examinations for new licenses are scheduled.

During the conference, changes in federal and state regulations which affect participants in their jobs and businesses will be explained. Participants will also learn to identify and control rodent, bird, insect and mold pests which damage stored grains.

The conference aims at helping stored grain pest managers to effectively use chemical and non-chemical pest management techniques in their work and to safely use fumigants in pest control.

The University of Minnesota's Department of Entomology, Fisheries and Wildlife, the Office of Special Programs and the Agricultural Extension Service are sponsoring the conference.

Registration is \$40 before Nov. 15 and \$50 after Nov. 15. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Inn-Northwest, Brooklyn Park, MN. For further information or to register, contact the Office of Special Programs at (612) 373-0725 or write: Office of Special Programs, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.

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Immediate release

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SOILS, FERTILIZER,
PESTICIDES COURSE

The latest research results concerning agricultural pesticides and fertilizers and their effects on plant life and soils will be presented at a Soils, Fertilizer, and Agricultural Pesticides Short Course on Dec. 12-13, 1978.

An exhibition featuring fertilizer and pesticide products and application equipment will also be held during the short course. Agricultural suppliers, applicators and producers will explain the use of the various products and application equipment.

The short course topics will concentrate on soils and fertilizers on Tuesday morning, Dec. 12. Pesticide equipment will be the topic Tuesday afternoon and the Wednesday program on December 13 will focus on herbicides, fungicides and insecticides.

Agricultural teachers, farmers, agricultural extension personnel, and persons interested in the soils, fertilizer and pesticides area or working in related industries, are invited to attend the short course.

The University of Minnesota's Institute of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics is sponsoring the two-day short course at the Minneapolis Auditorium.

The Minnesota Plant Food and Chemical Association, the Minnesota Certified Applicator's Association, the Minnesota Agricultural Aircraft Association and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture are contributing sponsors.

Registration fees for the conference are \$6 per person on Tuesday, Dec. 12, and \$4 per person on Wednesday, Dec. 13. The fees include admission to the short course and exposition plus an abstract covering the course proceedings.

For further information or to register, contact the Office of Special Programs at (612) 373-0725 or write: Office of Special Programs,
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

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September 11, 1978

615

MANURE FOR FERTILIZER:
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH

Using animal manures for fertilizer is a great idea. The only problem, says a University of Minnesota soils specialist, is that we'd need about eight times what's now available to supply enough plant nutrients for U. S. crops.

"Almost all available animal manure is returned to the land as fertilizer," says Curtis J. Overdahl, the U of M soils specialist. "Some people say that 'farmers aren't using manure as fertilizer anymore,' but that's not so," he adds.

A recent U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) publication estimates that plant nutrients from manure could have provided 13 percent of the nitrogen, 18 percent of the phosphate and 22 percent of the potash for crops grown in 1974.

More recent figures are not available, but Overdahl says the figures will not have changed substantially. In Minnesota, there was nearly three million tons of manure available in 1974, according to the USDA publication. This amounted to 82,000 tons of nitrogen, 64,000 tons of phosphate and 99,000 tons of potash.

The 1974 figures for Minnesota showed that 495,000 tons of nitrogen, 332,000 tons of phosphate and 423,000 tons of potash were applied to the soil. Manure supplied a little over 16 percent of the nitrogen, 19 percent of the phosphate and 21 percent of the potash in Minnesota.

-more-

add one--manure for fertilizer

"In 1973 and 1974 there were fertilizer shortages. Present tonnages of commercial fertilizer are higher than 1974. The nitrogen applied in manure in 1974 amounts to about 10 percent of the present fertilizer use in the U.S."

Some farmers have a large livestock operation in proportion to acres farmed and have enough manure to fertilize the entire farm. But it would be impossible for all farmers to fertilize only with manure and maintain yields, Overdahl says.

The following table shows the total nitrogen, phosphate and potash nutrients used in the U.S. and Minnesota in 1974 and the portion available in the form of manure.

<u>U.S.</u>	<u>Nitrogen</u>	<u>Phosphate</u>	<u>Potash</u>
	----- Million tons-----		
Total	10.6	6.2	6.5
Manure form	1.4	1.1	1.4
Percent as manure	13	18	22
 <u>Minnesota</u>			
	----- Million tons-----		
Total	495	332	423
Manure form	82	64	99
Percent as manure	16½	19	21

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440
Immediate release
ATT: Extension Home Economists

APPLE CIDER, JUICE
SPELL "FALL" BY ANY NAME

A bountiful apple harvest means apple cider and juice to many consumers who want to capture some of autumn's essence for enjoyment later.

Shirley T. Munson, extension horticulture specialist at the University of Minnesota, says many persons who seek information about making apple juice and cider are confused about the difference. She explains that apple juice is natural and unfermented. It is usually pasteurized or treated with preservatives to keep it from fermenting. "Sweet cider" is another name for apple juice.

The term sweet cider, however, sometimes refers to unpasteurized apple juice, such as the kind you might buy at an apple orchard. Fermented apple juice is called hard cider, and apple wine is juice or cider that has turned into wine through fermentation.

Mrs. Munson says the best apple juice or cider is made from a blend of a variety of apples. Taste tests show that most people prefer the juice from a moderately sweet apple such as Honeygold or McIntosh. Mixed juices also give pleasing combinations. One possible combination is three parts Red Delicious to three parts Haralson and one part McIntosh.

To make juice, use only sound, firm-ripe apples that have been washed well. The International Apple Institute says a bushel of apples will yield about three gallons of juice. If you have an apple press, crush or grind the apples first. If you will use a blender or juicerator instead, core the apples and remove the seeds.

After extracting the juice, strain it through several layers of cheesecloth or muslin to remove coarse material. Such juice will be cloudy, but it can be used without further treatment, according to Mrs. Munson. Another method of clarifying the juice is to allow it to stand for 10 to 15 hours while some of the suspended material settles. After that has happened, siphon or drain off the juice without disturbing the sediment.

Cool the juice promptly to 32° to 36°F. Unfiltered juice will keep in the refrigerator for about two weeks. To save juice for a longer period, freeze it in clean containers, allowing about an inch of space at the top for expansion. Stored at 0° F. or lower, apple juice will keep successfully for a year.

Pasteurized apple juice will keep for several months without fermenting. Heat the juice to 170°F. and hold it at that temperature for 10 minutes. Pour into clean containers, seal, cool and refrigerate.

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ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

WHEN A ROOM IS HOME
IT CAN STILL BE LIVABLE

If dormitory living is on the horizon for you or a family member, don't assume that privacy and individuality must go. In fact, Linda Reece, extension interior design-furnishings specialist at the University of Minnesota, says private space is a must in a shared living area.

"Roommates can solve the cramped quarters problem by using room dividers," suggests Ms. Reece. "Folding screens covered with fabric or adhesive paper can be opened up or put away depending on whether you want privacy or not."

Color is one of the best tools for decorating a dorm room. Ms. Reece says that if bedspreads are not provided, choose some that are medium to dark colored with some texture or pattern. These will show dirt less. Be sure that the spread and throw pillows are of no-iron fabric that can be machine washed and dried.

Colorful posters, wall hangings and bulletin boards also can add warmth to even the most cubicle-like dormitory room.

Here are some other decorating tips for making dorm life more pleasant:

- * Folding director's chairs
- * Multi-purpose and space saving items like stackable or modular furniture for stereo and TV.
- * Bolster pillows on the bed to give a day-bed effect.
- * Hooks and racks on the back of doors for extra hanging space
- * Painted metal bookshelves
- * Rubber tool boxes or pails to hold toiletries for trips to the shower.
- * Rubber turntables for cosmetics
- * Area rugs

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Immediate release

NEW CO-OP BANK MAY
ENCOURAGE CON ARTISTS

Passage of the new National Consumer Cooperative Bank Bill may encourage fraudulent peddling of worthless consumer cooperative memberships.

Such activity has already been reported in the Washington, D.C. area, according to Frank Smith, agricultural economist at the University of Minnesota. "We have reports that in the District of Columbia, some residents paid more than \$600 each to join a 'consumer' cooperative that would sell appliances and other items at sharply reduced prices.

"Those peddling the memberships displayed copies of a Washington Post news story concerning the new bank bill," says Smith. "They said that new funds received from a bank made it possible for them to cut their initial membership fees from \$1800 to the 'bargain' \$600. Such 'low-cost' memberships are a rip-off."

However, the bank still has no appropriated funds and will not actually come into existence for six months to a year from now. There have been problems in other states where promoters organized cooperatives that bilked thousands of dollars from trusting farmers.

The Cooperative Bank is intended to serve as a source of "sound loans" for consumer cooperatives. It will be capitalized over a five-year period by repayable, interest-bearing government investments of \$300 million. Additional loan funds will be obtained by selling debentures on the open market.

Another \$75 million will be provided over three years to an office of self-help to provide financial aid and technical assistance of low-income cooperative borrowers. Low-income persons are most susceptible to con artists, says Smith.

"Funds for cooperative development will not be available for some time," he emphasizes.

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DRY WEATHER A PLUS
FOR STATE'S CORN CROP

Warm, dry weather in late summer has hastened maturity of the state's corn crop.

Although scattered fields may suffer small yield losses, the net effect of the dry weather has probably been beneficial, says Dale Hicks, University of Minnesota extension agronomist.

"The dry weather helped the crop mature earlier, which means that farmers can start harvesting sooner. It also reduces the threat of a killing frost hitting before the crop has matured," says Hicks.

Although it's difficult to determine how much yields may have been reduced due to high temperatures and water stress on the corn plants, Hicks says most corn was at the dent stage and beyond during the dry spell. Once corn is at the dent stage, 75 percent of the yield is assured, even if all the leaves are killed.

A few upper leaves killed and slight water stress will probably result in some, but little yield loss. "At the dent stage there will be zero percent yield loss if 20 percent of the leaves are killed from lack of water. Even if 40 percent of the leaves are killed at the dent stage, yield loss will be only three percent," says Hicks.

Water stress can reduce grain test weight, as well as per acre yield. Since corn with a test weight below 54 pounds can be docked when you sell it, Hicks suggests that farmers with any low test weight corn feed it and sell their higher test weight grain. Nutritionally, the lower test weight corn is sound.

CA, IA

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and Agricultural Journalism
Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
September 18, 1978

Immediate release

SOLAR HEATING
WORKSHOP SET

Residential solar heating will be the topic of a free workshop from 1 to 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 16 on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. It is intended for consumers interested in solar heating for new house construction or for older house remodeling.

Roger Peterson, extension residential energy specialist at the University, will conduct the workshop. Topics will include Minnesota's climate as it relates to solar energy, orientation of the house, effects of shading, passive versus active solar heating, solar collector types, heat storage and the cost, performance and payback of a solar system.

To register, send name, address, phone number and area of main interest to Minnesota Solar Workshop, 266 McNeal Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.

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CHECK LATE MATURING
FIELDS FOR CORN BORERS

Farmers with late maturing corn fields are encouraged to check for corn borers.

"Walk through the fields and check shanks and ears for the borers," advises John Lofgren, extension entomologist at the University of Minnesota. Large populations could cause heavy losses and Lofgren suggests harvesting infested fields earlier.

Farmers with a variety of different corn maturities may want to harvest the later varieties first if they're heavily infested. The borers feed in the stalks, in the area where the ear is attached to the stalk plus the ear itself.

The problem of ears dropping off the stalks is compounded if strong winds hit infested fields.

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BREAK BARRIERS
BETWEEN PARENTS, TEACHERS

Parents and teachers are the most important people in the lives of school children. Too often, however, they barely know each other and each may be suspicious of the other.

Ronald Pitzer, extension family life specialist at the University of Minnesota, says parents should plan to visit their children's schools to help break down the barriers that sometimes exist.

"A good many parents are afraid of teachers," Pitzer says. "They feel that teachers may be contemptuous of them because they are not well educated or can't talk the teacher's language. Sometimes teachers are even more afraid of parents because they get criticism from them. Each may blame the other for things they don't understand--things that could be remedied by mutual respect and trust."

Pitzer thinks the trend toward parent-teacher conferences instead of report cards is helping bring parents and teachers together.

He cautions parents not to judge a child's school or teacher too hastily. "Schools have changed so much recently that even young parents should be careful not to criticize on the basis of their own experience," Pitzer says. "Even when we can't understand what a school or teacher is trying to accomplish by a certain method, we should withhold judgment until we can find out."

He says that parents weaken a child's morale when they divide his or her allegiance by scoffing at things the school is trying to do. If parents become convinced that changes should be made after they have studied the matter, they should work through the parent-teacher organization rather than trying to bring about changes individually.

When parents take sides with a child against the teacher or school without getting the facts, the school's authority is undermined. Pitzer says parents naturally feel protective toward their children, but they should avoid hasty, violent reactions when they think their son or daughter is threatened. "A calm approach aimed at seeing both sides of the question will give better results," he says. "And it may save some embarrassment for parents who let love or pride stand in the way of sensibly studying a situation."

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Immediate release
4-H NEWS

County Director: In next week's packet, I will send the list of top placing Community Pride 4-H Clubs and a brief description of some of their projects. You may wish to combine this item with that one--Deedee Nagy.

LOCAL 4-H CLUB
REPRESENTED AT
STATE MEETING

_____ of the _____ 4-H Club of
delegate's name

_____ County participated Sept. 18-20 in the 1978 4-H Community
Pride competition sponsored by the Minnesota Agricultural Extension and
Northrup King Co.

He/She was one of 70 county representatives at the meeting and tour held in the Twin Cities. The 4-H Club members toured the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the Northrup King field trial grounds and Ouröboros East energy house. They also saw "Energy Today and Tomorrow," a program explaining energy alternatives. Each county delegate received a souvenir shirt and the top rated projects were awarded medals.

According to Tom Powell, 4-H youth development specialist at the University of Minnesota, 4-H clubs throughout the state volunteer more than 1½ million hours toward community beautification and service efforts. He estimates that between 38,000 and 40,000 4-H'ers and leaders contribute time and energy toward community betterment each year.

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Note to home economists: If you are interested in working with your local schools on a nutrition education program, this could provide needed funds. Check with your school administrators for details or call Barbara Kalina of the State Department of Education at (612)-296-4055. The deadline for grant applications is Sept. 25.

FUNDS SET
FOR SCHOOL
NUTRITION EFFORTS

Nearly one-half million dollars of federal funds is available to Minnesota schools that come up with plans for incorporating nutrition education into the classroom.

Barbara Kalina, coordinator of the nutrition education and training program at the State Department of Education, says the money is available to public and private schools, day care centers and special schools for the disabled. The emphasis will be on setting up programs where teachers, school nurses, food service personnel and parents work together to expose students to good nutrition.

Part of the money is earmarked for teacher training workshops and another portion will go to special projects such as nutrition education for the handicapped and for pregnant teens, Ms. Kalina says. "But we're hoping that, with the remainder of the funding, schools will come up with innovative approaches to teaching nutrition. Children need the chance to learn more about food and nutrition so they can establish good habits that will serve them for a life time."

Schools' proposals for the money are due late this month and funds will be awarded at that time. Programs are expected to get underway this school year, Ms. Kalina says.

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FIRE PREVENTION
WEEK OCT. 8-13

Nobody knows if Mrs. O'Leary's cow started the Chicago Fire of 1871. But the fire did originate in the O'Leary barn on Dekoven Street--and two days and 250 lives later, the fire was extinguished.

The anniversary of the Chicago Fire is the focus for Fire Prevention Week. More than 100 Minnesotans are killed by fire each year. And rural residents are especially susceptible since they're often some distance from their fire department.

(name)

(name of county)

(county)

(title) offers these tips for farm families:

--Keep matches and other flammables out of reach of children.

--Be careful when you smoke. Never smoke in bed.

--Make sure your heating system is clean and safe. If you burn wood, burn dry wood.

--Get one or more smoke detectors--they're cheap. And since a house fire can reach fatal levels in less than four minutes, they'll give you the time you need to escape. Plan an escape route and a place to meet outside. Smoke detectors can warn you of a fire, but they won't carry you outside.

--Get some fire extinguishers for your kitchen, shop, and for each major implement.

--Watch catalytic converters on your cars and pick-ups--they can start a very expensive field fire.

--Protect your buildings and grain bins from lightning.

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For more information contact:
David MacDonald (612) 373-1845
or Jack Sperbeck (612) 373-0710

SERIOUS SOYBEAN DISEASE DISCOVERED IN MINNESOTA

The most serious soybean disease in the U. S. has invaded Minnesota. The disease, called the soybean cyst nematode, has been identified by David H. MacDonald, plant pathologist at the University of Minnesota.

The disease was first discovered in a Faribault County field and is believed to have spread to neighboring farms. Although the disease will not cause widespread crop losses this year, soybean growers with infested fields will have to change their management practices and "learn to live with the disease," MacDonald says.

The disease has caused losses ranging from 30 to 80 percent in Illinois and other states such as Missouri and Arkansas. The nematode invades a soybean root, establishes a favorable feeding site and then enlarges into a lemon-shaped adult.

The disease organism lives in the soil. "Land that becomes infested usually remains permanently infested with the nematode," MacDonald says. All soybean varieties presently grown in Minnesota are susceptible. And when scientists do release resistant varieties, they must be used carefully or become susceptible to other races of the nematode.

No presently registered chemicals have been very effective in controlling the disease, according to Illinois research. The best control is crop rotation, says MacDonald.

He advises a crop rotation of at least two years of corn and preferably three years between soybean crops to keep nematode population down to "acceptable levels." Since green beans and some dry edible beans are thought

add one--soybean disease

to be hosts for the nematode, these crops cannot be used in the crop rotation any more frequently than soybeans.

Although the disease spreads rather slowly through the soil, it can spread rapidly in soil transported on farm machinery. In the first diseased field, diseased plants near the field entrance led MacDonald to suspect the disease was originally brought to the field by used farm equipment that was used to work the land sometime in the 1967-69 period.

It usually takes four to five crops of soybeans in a corn-soybean rotation before enough nematodes develop to cause above-ground disease symptoms. Once in a field, the nematodes are spread rapidly by cultivation.

Symptoms of the disease include stunted, yellow plants; weedy fields and early maturing soybeans.

"The role of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to help minimize the effect of the soybean cyst nematode on Minnesota's agricultural economy will be significant," says MacDonald. "Soil samples will be collected this fall from soybean fields near the infested field and from other fields farmed by the same farmer. Results of that survey plus information from regulatory agencies in other states where the soybean cyst nematode exists will be considered to determine the best course of action at this time.

"The arrival of this serious disease is unfortunate, but there was little that could have been done to prevent it. Its presences on a piece of land will restrict the management choices available to the farmer. Although this 'new' problem will never go away, we can learn to live with it," MacDonald concludes.

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ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

MAKE STUDY SPACE
INVITING

Don't encourage your children to play hooky from their studies by making study space hard to find. Linda Reece, extension interior design-furnishings specialist at the University of Minnesota, says an inviting, efficient study area can promote good study habits.

Furnishings needn't be elaborate, she adds. Most can be devised from things around the home.

Begin with a desk. If your child doesn't already have one, make one by placing a piece of plywood on wooden crates, metal file cabinets or legs that can be fitted and attached to the plywood with screws. Remember a desk must be a suitable height and a size for the child using it, according to Ms. Reece.

Functional catch-alls can be made from old juice cans covered with adhesive paper. Trays for holding paper and tablets can be made out of cardboard boxes covered with gift wrap or construction paper.

A potato chip can or an ice cream container makes a child-size wastebasket. Decorate it collage-style with pictures from newspapers or magazines. Paste these all over the container and spray with varnish, Ms. Reece recommends.

If space permits, bookshelves are a good addition to a young student's room. Pine planks placed on metal shelving strips and held in place by brackets make ideal bookshelves.

A bulletin board made of pegboard squares is good for showing off art work and good papers, Ms. Reece suggests.

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4-H NEWS

LOCAL 4-H CLUBS
TAKE COMMUNITY
PRIDE HONORS

Four-H Clubs from Dodge, Murray and Morrison Counties took the top three placings in the 1978 Community Pride competition sponsored by the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service and Northrop King Co. Additional achievement awards also went to clubs from Becker, Olmsted, Beltrami, West Ottertail, Wilkin, Lac qui Parle and Washington Counties.

Delegates from the 70 participating counties met in St. Paul Sept. 18-20 for tours and activities related to community beautification and service. Members of each of the three top clubs will receive Community Pride medals and the clubs finishing in fourth through tenth place will receive \$5 gift certificates from Northrop King Co. for seeds or other gardening supplies.

The winning project from _____ County's _____ 4-H Club
involved _____
county name club name

(County agents: Fill in details of interest to your area from
the following list of projects)

Dodge County--The Dodge Super Jets completed several community projects during the year. They hosted a lunch for area businessmen, caroled at the Hayfield Nursing Home, cleaned up trash in ditches and repainted and made repairs on the township hall.

Murray County--The POCO-A-POCO 4-H'ers completed a cleanup and improvement project on the Pioneer Cemetery in the county. They mowed, raised old gravestones and recast damaged white cross grave markers. They also did research on the area's history and early settlers as part of the effort.

Washington County--The Mahtomedi Movers planted trees in Wildwood Park and protected their plantings by wrapping mesh around them and installing signs nearby.

-more-

add---local 4-H clubs

Morrison County--The Pierz Boosters bought, stained and prepared planter-style "wheelchair gardens" for the St. Mary's Villa Nursing Home. They also contributed outdoor benches for the patients' use.

Becker County--The Walworth Willing Workers took on the task of painting and redecorating the old Walworth Town Hall. The town board rewarded the club's efforts by contributing money for a picnic.

Olmsted County--The Marion Marchers spread their community service efforts throughout the year at the Whitewater Manor Nursing Home in St. Charles. Some of their activities include holiday celebrations, showing fair exhibits and ribbons, games and talent nights and a watermelon feed.

Beltrami County--The Grant Valley Adventurers repainted the town hall and planted a flower garden before holding an open house and offering hospitality to area residents interested in viewing their accomplishments.

West Ottertail County--The members of Sverdrup 4-H continued a project begun last year, cleaning up the east shoreline of Bass Lake. Working with parents, the Department of Natural Resources and local township officials, they helped to return the littered shore to a picnic area.

Wilkin County--The Tenney 4-H Club took cookies to people and sang carols at Christmas. They also raised money for swimming lessons by putting on a one act show. They helped to clean up a local park and did some flower and tree planting. Each month, they encouraged homeowners to tidy their lawns by selecting the best looking yard and supplying photographs to the newspaper.

Lac qui Parle--The Baxter Beavers restored the facilities at the Lac qui Parle County Park after vandals had damaged it. They cleaned the grounds and rebuilt damaged outbuildings.

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SAFETY FIRST
IN GRAIN BINS

Make sure that the unloading auger is safely disengaged before you enter a grain bin, according to Bob Aherin, University of Minnesota extension safety specialist.

"Grain flows like fluid when it's drawn from the bottom of a bin. When you stand in a grain bin your weight will push your body into the grain at just about ankle level and once the grain is above your knees, you are helpless," Aherin notes.

Aherin offers the following precautions when working in the grain bin:

Never enter a grain bin while the grain is flowing. Shut off the unloader and use a pipe or long object to break a surface bridge. Keep children away from grain bins at all times.

Workers should wear tight fitting clothes that will not easily be caught in the machinery. Keep guards and covers over moving parts, especially the auger intake.

Grain bins should have ladders installed in them so that if a problem does arise while you are in the bin, you will have a way to get out. If you must enter a bin while grain is flowing, use a rope and safety harness with two men outside to hold you.

Disconnect the power to the auger when it is not in use or when doing maintenance work. This will prevent worker entanglement with the auger.

Stay clear of power lines when moving a portable auger or elevator. You can be electrocuted if contact is made. Be alert for elevator collapse or winch failure when moving the machinery into position.

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FREE STALL DAIRY
HEIFER HOUSING

Housing heifers with the milking herd is usually uneconomical. In many cases, feed is wasted because of poor feeding practices. Heifers lacking sufficient feed will not grow well, reducing potential productivity. Bedding costs are high in traditional loose housing.

The agricultural engineers of the Midwest Plan Service have designed a free stall barn to meet the specific needs of good heifer management.

The 48'x176' pole-type building is divided into six gated sections. Stalls are different sizes to house about 104 heifers from two months to two years of age.

Animals are grouped according to size and aggressiveness to allow each group to get a balanced ration and any special medication that may be needed.

The plan includes two manure alleys and a feed bunk with an adjacent drive-through alley. Manure is tractor scraped to one end of the building for storage or land application.

Pivoting or sliding vent doors with an open ridge provide natural ventilation. An optional air inlet for better control of drafts is detailed.

Return on investment in this building is realized through lower costs of labor, feed and bedding. In addition, improved milk production may be realized from growthier heifers.

Plans can be ordered through your county extension office or from:

Extension Agricultural Engineer
Dept. of Agr. Eng.
University of Minn.
St. Paul, MN. 55108

Cost is \$2.00 plus sales tax.

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FREE STALL RESTING
BARN FOR 60 COWS

In moderate climates, free stall barns have been successful where cows have access to an open lot all year.

The Midwest Plan Service offers a plan for a 40'x75' free stall resting barn for 60 cows. The pole-type building is naturally ventilated with three 10' wall openings oriented to the east or south. During warm weather, doors on the north or west wall are opened for increased air movement. Gates keep the animals in the barn or lot area. Air movement is through the sidewall to an open ridge. The roof is insulated with a minimum R-value of 4 to reduce condensation in the winter and keep the building cooler in the summer.

Stalls are oriented parallel to the length of the building with three manure alleys across the width. Manure is tractor scraped onto a concrete apron for storage or land application.

Feeding and watering is outside of the building in the dry lot. The lot can be adapted to fenceline or mechanical feeding.

This plan allows a dairyman to bring animals in from a pasture system with a relatively low investment. Free stalls reduce bedding requirements and improve cow cleanliness. The naturally ventilated facilities reduce energy and maintenance costs compared to insulated, fan ventilated buildings.

MWPS-72360 is available from:

Extension Agricultural Engineer
Dept. of Agr. Eng.
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108

Cost is \$2.00 plus sales tax.

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WARM DAIRY BARN
PLAN AVAILABLE

Selection of a dairy barn depends on herd size, expansion possibilities, financial capabilities and available labor. The Midwest Plan Service has a plan for the dairyman who wants to substitute labor for capital investment.

MWPS-72358 is a 42'x96' stud frame, free stall barn for housing and milking 41 cows. It is fully insulated with an R-value of at least 23 in the ceiling and 13 in the walls.

Included in the plan are 41 free stalls, a 40' center feed bunk, a milkroom for six floor level milking stalls and a milkhouse.

A 40' center feed bunk is filled from a tractor-drawn wagon or trailer.

The building is fan ventilated with tractor scraped manure alleys.

Although herd size can be increased, this layout is not recommended for a herd larger than 50 cows.

MWPS-72348 is a six page plan and is available for \$2.

AED-19, "Slip Resistant Concrete Floors," gives recommendations for finishing freshly cast floors to prevent injury to animals on slippery floors. Roughening existing floors is also discussed. AED-19 sells for 50¢.

Plans can be ordered through your county extension office or from:

Extension Agricultural Engineer
Dept. of Agr. Eng.
University of Minn.
St. Paul, Minn. 55108

Cost is \$2.00 plus sales tax.

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PLAN FOR SIDE
OPENING MILKING
PARLOR AVAILABLE

If labor to do the daily milking is limited, a more mechanized milking system is desirable. A side-opening parlor is one alternative for an operator of a small or moderate sized dairy herd.

A field survey indicates that a single-3 side-opening parlor can handle 20 to 25 cows per hour with one operator.

The Midwest Plan Service now has a plan for a single-3 side-opening parlor. The 28'x28' building plan has areas for the milkhouse, a feedroom, an office and bathroom.

Descriptions of the heating, ventilation and utility systems are included as well as alternative waste disposal systems.

The six page plan, MWPS-72348, costs \$2 and is available from:

Extension Agricultural Engineer
Dept. of Agr. Eng.
University of Minn.
St. Paul, Minn. 55108

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DAIRY BARN WITH
SLOTTED FLOOR

The Midwest Plan Service now has a plan for a naturally ventilated dairy barn with slotted floors. The 40'x200' building has 105 free stalls and a 120' indoor mechanical feed bunk. The layout utilizes a double-6 herringbone parlor (mwps plan 75247).

Pivoting or sliding vents in the sidewalls provide ventilation throughout the year, with an optional winter air inlet at the eave. Roof design is unique in that there are no roof purlins to hinder air movement to the ridge. Instead, trusses are 4' on center and a plywood sheathing roof system is used. Insulation board is between the plywood and the metal roofing for protection from birds. A minimum R-value of 4 is recommended for the insulation board to reduce condensation in the winter and keep the building cooler in the summer.

The holding area and alleys are slotted over an 8' deep manure pit. Manure is handled as a liquid.

MWPS-72359 is a 10 page plan available for \$2 from:

Extension Agricultural Engineer
Dept. of Agr. Eng.
University of Minn.
St. Paul, MN 55108

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FEEDING SOYBEANS
TO DAIRY CATTLE

Soybeans that can't be sold or will be severely discounted due to volunteer corn can be fed as a protein supplement for dairy cattle.

Mike Hutjens, extension dairy specialist at the University of Minnesota, lists these guidelines:

--Do not mix more than 20 percent soybeans in the grain mixture. Limit topdressing to five pounds per cow per day. "High fat content of the beans can result in reduced feed digestibility, off-feed problems, looseness and lower fat test," Hutjens says.

--Don't feed whole beans--they'll go right through the cow. Beans must be coarse ground, crimped or crushed to break the kernels. "But don't grind them too fine or they'll get mushy and oily," Hutjens cautions.

--The feeding value of roasted beans is equal to raw beans (38 percent crude protein and 88 percent TDN on an air dry basis). Roasting is not necessary for cattle with a functional rumen.

--Do NOT mix raw soybeans with urea, Hutjens cautions. Ammonia will be released and the cattle will refuse the feed. Roasted or extruded beans can be combined with urea.

--In warm wet weather, rancidity of the beans' oil can be a problem. Prepare the feed supply for seven days or less.

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EVEN ON FALL DAYS,
HYPOTHERMIA KILLS
OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS

Snakes and bears? Nonsense. Hypothermia or death from cold is the number one killer of outdoor recreationalists, and every year more persons die in above freezing temperatures than below.

Sherri Johnson, extension textiles and clothing specialist at the University of Minnesota, says hypothermia strikes when your body begins to lose heat faster than it can produce it. Most hypothermia cases develop when the air temperature is between 30 and 50 degrees, possibly because victims underestimate the danger of wind and wetness on seemingly mild days.

This makes fall a hazardous time for unwary outdoor enthusiasts, she says. The first line of defense against hypothermia is to avoid exposure. Do this first by staying dry, she suggests. When clothes are wet they lose about 90 percent of their insulating value. Wool loses less than cotton, down or synthetics.

Beware of wind. A slight breeze carries heat away from bare skin much faster than still air. Think of your clothing choice as preventive, Mrs. Johnson suggests. Put on raingear before you get wet and put on wool clothes before you begin shivering.

Because hypothermia drains a person's energy and impairs judgment, the victim may not realize what is happening. Hunters and campers should be on the alert for danger signals in themselves or others in their group. Never ignore shivering. Persistent and violent shivering is a warning that a person is on the verge of hypothermia.

Other symptoms include vague, slurred speech, memory lapses or incoherence; fumbling hands; stumbling or lurching, drowsiness and exhaustion. Make camp or seek shelter before becoming exhausted, Mrs. Johnson advises. Exposure reduces a person's normal endurance and if exhaustion forces an end to physical exercise, hypothermia can come on in a matter of minutes.

The treatment for hypothermia is simple, but it must be carried out immediately because the condition can kill quickly.

1. Get the victim out of the wind and rain and strip off all wet clothes.
2. If the person is only mildly impaired, provide warm, non-alcoholic liquids, dry clothes and a warm sleeping bag.

add 1--even on fall days

3. If the person is semi-conscious, try to keep him or her awake. Put the victim, stripped, into a sleeping bag with a warm, stripped person. Skin to skin contact is the most effective treatment.
4. Build a fire to warm the camp.
5. Because hypothermia puts the body under stress, a person who has suffered from it should seek medical attention as soon as possible.

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ATT: Extension Home Economists

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COLORS ADD WARMTH
AND BRIGHTNESS

Want to feel warmer without increasing your heating bill this winter? A change in your decorating scheme may do the trick, suggests Linda Reece, extension interior design-furnishings specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Research shows that people feel warmer in some rooms than in others, even when the temperature is the same, Miss Reece says. Decorating makes the difference.

You needn't redecorate completely, however, she says. By working with accessories - pillows, area rugs, wall hangings - you can create a cozy feeling at little cost. The wise use of color is one key to warming up a room. In general, red, yellow and orange warm a room while blue, green and violet have the opposite effect. Dark shades such as maroon and bright colors tend to be warmer than light tints and pastels.

Apply these color principles both to wall and floor coverings and to decorator items in your room, Miss Reece advises. Brightly colored area rugs, lamp bases and knickknacks add warm splashes to a room. Even flower arrangements can help. Choose dried arrangements in rusts, golds and browns rather than silk flowers in pastel colors.

Along with color, consider texture for a warmer feel, Miss Reece suggests. Whether you're dealing with furniture, carpets or wall coverings, the principle is the same: the richer the texture, the greater the warmth. This means that brick and wood are warmer than chrome and glass. Shag carpets are warmer than tile and velvet is warmer than satin.

Sleek modern furniture styles tend to give a cool look to a room, but Miss Reece says they can be warmed up by adding mounds of fat pillows and brightly colored afghans. Bare walls are chilly, so fill them with decorative objects. Try shelves of books, wall hangings, painting and needlework. And don't forget window treatments. You will feel more comfortable with curtains than blinds or plain white shades.

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PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY
AT HARVEST

Don't let your profits go up in smoke this year at harvest time. That's the advice of Bob Aherin, University of Minnesota extension safety specialist.

"Fires occurring during operation of field equipment can be stopped quickly by equipping combines, pickers, trucks, tractors and other harvesting machinery with the correct fire extinguishers and by training the operators to use them," Aherin said.

Multipurpose dry chemical extinguishers rated at least 2A-10B:C offer protection for oil or gas fires and give moderate help with straw or other combustible material fires.

Install a multipurpose dry chemical fire extinguisher on your harvest equipment and make sure that you or your operator can use it, Aherin suggested.

Recheck extinguishers periodically to make sure that they are charged as recommended by the manufacturer. If possible carry a shovel on harvesting equipment so you can throw dirt on a blaze if one should develop. Also, Aherin added, some farmers keep a spray rig with a large tank of water on standby in the field being harvested in case of fire.

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SOD WATERWAYS STOP
MOST EROSION

To prevent heavy rains from gouging gullies and eroding sloping cropland, landowners may construct waterways with thick grass sod, a University of Minnesota extension conservationist advises.

Clifton Halsey says farmers can avoid the types of washouts caused by this year's rains. "The grassed waterways, of course, have to be wide enough and properly shaped to hold all the runoff water," he said.

The waterway may be 15-100 feet wide, depending on how much land drains into it. It may be shaped as a saucer with gently sloping sides. Stake the sides of the waterway to mark its width, he says.

After shaping, fertilize and till the soil to make a good seedbed for the grass. It should be seeded with a good permanent grass mixture, not legumes such as alfalfa or clover.

"It's too late to get a stand this fall, so the next best time to seed is early next spring," Halsey said. "A nurse crop of small grain can be planted with the seeding. The planting should be mulched with 1½-2 tons of straw or strawy manure per acre anchored by light disking."

The local soil district conservationist can help plan the proper size and shape of the waterway. The conservation districts and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service can also cost-share with farmers building waterways.

What happened to soil that washed out this summer? Halsey says the coarser silt and sand particles settle out at the foot of the steeper slopes filling in lower areas. Finer silt and clay particles may fill in roadsides and drainage ditches or be trapped in lowland pastures. Fine material also reaches rivers, making them muddy. "After floods, you'll find it deposited on the flood plains and in homes and other buildings as happened in Rochester this summer," Halsey said.

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Immediate release

DRY COW PROGRAM
AVOIDS OVERFEEDING

A special management program for dry cows that includes feeding long forage and coarsely ground, low energy grains will reduce health problems and increase milk production, say University of Minnesota researchers.

"A sound dry cows program and controlled transition to the milking ration can represent an extra 500 to 3,000 lb. more milk per cow per lactation," Michael Hutjens, extension dairyman and Donald Otterby, animal scientist, report.

Calving difficulties, retained placenta, mastitis, fat cows, off feed and reduced disease resistance have been traced to the dry period and early lactation. Dairy animals must make major internal adjustments during these periods.

Overfeeding is more common than underfeeding of dry cows because of their low nutritional needs. The dry animal requires only nine percent protein, while the lactating cow should have 15 percent or more. Average TDN (total digestible nutrients) should be 53 percent for dry, 65 for lactating; and dry matter intake should be 20 lb. for dry, more than 30 lb. for lactating.

"Coarse textured, low energy grains are desirable," Hutjens and Otterby said. The amount of grain should be dictated by the quality and amount of forage, body condition and the animal's age. In many herds, the grain is not needed for energy.

Forage longer than one-half inch should be fed. Corn silage intake may have to be limited to avoid too much energy. Dry cows tend to overconsume energy if allowed to feed freely.

Hutjens and Otterby advised using a ration of 11 lb. legume hay, 30 lb. corn silage and 4 lb. grain mix for each 1,000 lb. of body weight. Field studies completed this year show that in free stall operations, about 800 lb. more milk was produced when a dry cow ration was fed. Only 15 percent of Minnesota DHI herds were feeding such a ration in 1976.

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PROTECTING TREES
FROM ANIMAL DAMAGE

Since animal damage to trees is usually most severe from late fall to early spring, now may be the time to put the tree out of reach, or to make its bark unappetizing to animals.

Marvin E. Smith, extension forester at the University of Minnesota, says that large populations of rabbits and mice caused severe damage last year. These animals may still be at the high points of their population cycles this winter.

Placing cylinders of hardware cloth or mesh screen around the base of each tree should prevent rabbits from girdling or cutting down the planting. "Be sure to wrap the tree high enough so rabbits can't get at it by standing on the snow," he says.

Commercial or home-prepared repellents may be sprayed or painted on trees. Effective commercial repellents contain one or more of the chemicals abbreviated TNB-A, TMTD, or ZAC, and are available at hardware, garden supply and feed stores and nurseries.

Mice damage can usually be prevented by rabbit-protection measures. Just be sure mesh hardware cloth or other coverings extend deep enough into the soil to prevent the rodents from digging under the screen.

Deer may feed on the tops and side branches of small trees. Bucks often rub stems with their antlers, stripping the bark. Rabbit repellents sometimes work against deer. Fencing is very expensive, and must reach high. Your local game enforcement officer should be notified if damage is severe.

-more-

add 1--protecting trees

Sugar maple stands may attract squirrels, which gnaw and strip bark in tree tops. The rodents can be isolated from the trees by placing a 2-foot band of smooth metal around the trunk 6-8 feet above the ground.

Metal bands may also protect against porcupine damage, if they are 3-4 feet wide. A mixture of 1 lb. of copper naphthenate and 2½ quarts mineral spirits painted on the wood may discourage the animal.

Gophers feed on tree roots below the ground line year round. On tree plantations, a tractor-pulled "burrow-building" machine is feasible. The machine deposits poisoned bait in artificially created tunnels that intercept pocket gopher runways. In other situations, the gophers may simply have to be removed through trapping and poisoning.

Using a repellent or building fences may keep male dogs from damaging trees and ground foliage.

For details, see Forestry Fact Sheet No. 8, "Protecting Trees from Animal Damage." Free single copies are available from Minnesota county extension offices or the Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108.

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OVERFILLING GRAIN BINS
PROMOTES INSECT DAMAGE

The shortage of storage space for this year's grain crop may encourage bin overfilling and other practices that promote insect growth in stored grain, a University of Minnesota entomologist says.

Alan V. Barak said that about 80 percent of the grain bins he sampled throughout the state last year were overfilled. This grain "started to deteriorate over the summer," he said. "Insects seem to be much more numerous this year."

Allowing the grain to peak or overfilling the bin cuts down on the air movement through the middle of the bin and encourages mold growth. Some insects are drawn to mold in damaged grain. "The most abundant insect, the foreign grain beetle, does not attack solid, undamaged kernels," Barak said.

He advises that when corn is not screened before storage, a spreader be used to keep the grain level as it enters the bin. Shoveling grain away from the spout line will also help.

Grain allowed to peak under a spout line will consist of more dockage and broken kernels than grain along the edges. This forms a core in the bin that promotes spoilage and insect growth, and that resists fumigation.

Before storage, bins should be swept out and sprayed with malathion. Six inches to one foot of space should be left unfilled above the leveled grain. The surface of the grain should then be sprayed with malathion.

"Check the grain every two weeks throughout the year," Barak advises. "Get in the bin and get below the surface to take a temperature reading and look for insects." Temperature should be below 55°F.

For details, see Entomology Fact Sheet No. 9, "Insects in Stored Grain" available at county extension offices and the Agricultural Extension Service Bulletin Room, St. Paul 55108.

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SAFETY COURSE SCHEDULED

A special safety course has been scheduled for October 26 in Rochester, according to Bob Aherin, University of Minnesota extension safety specialist.

The purpose of the "Keep Em Alive" course is to teach skills necessary for maintaining the life of an accident or sudden illness victim until professional help arrives. It is produced and offered by Minnesota Rescue and First Aid Association.

"By attending the course, you will be able to personally evaluate it for possible use in your county or community. At the same time, you will learn the basic skills necessary to handle a serious injury," Aherin said.

The six-hour training session will start at 8:30 a.m. at the Kahler Motel in Rochester. An advanced registration of \$7.50 should be sent to Minnesota Safety Council, 145 Hamm Building, St. Paul, Minnesota.

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4-H NEWS

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4-H CARCASS
CHAMPIONS

Top winners in carcass and combined carcass/live contests at the State 4-H Market Livestock Show have been announced for beef, swine and sheep.

In carcass beef, the champion animal was owned by Val Tollaksen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Tollaksen, Canby. The reserve champion was owned by Scott Green, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Green, Blomkest.

Val Tollaksen was a double champion this year, winning the combined beef contest as well. The reserve combined beef champion was Bruce Ihnen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ihnen, Round Lake.

Another double champion was Bruce Drew, who won the swine carcass contest and was named reserve champion in the combined swine race. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. William Drew, Jasper. The reserve carcass winner was Kimberly Babcock, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Babcock, Nerstrand.

Tom MacVey won the swine combined championship. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry MacVey, Brownsdale.

Greg Hasbargen, Wheaton, won the championship for carcass sheep. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wally Hasbargen.

Paula Larson, Garden City, won three awards in the sheep contests this year. Her animal was judged the reserve champion carcass, the champion combined and had earlier won the rate of gain championship. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Gary Larson.

Kim Tolzmann, who had earlier been named champion in the live sheep contest, won the reserve championship in the combined category. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Ken Tolzmann, Mankato.

Premiums paid this year, which are determined by auction, were \$2,900 above market value for the champion live beef, \$525 for the champion swine and \$300 for the top sheep.

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4-H NEWS

Immediate release

4-H HORSE DRIVING
CLINIC SCHEDULED

A 4-H horse driving clinic will be October 21 at Bonnie Lee Farms near Willmar, according to Sharon Gilsrud, University of Minnesota extension youth specialist.

The clinic will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the farm, located three miles south of Willmar on Highway 71. Advanced registration accompanied by \$2.00 registration fee is requested by October 15, Gilsrud said.

For more information concerning the clinic contact your county extension agent, she said.

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BETTER BANKING BRIEFS

Write Checks Right

Everyone knows how to write a check. Right? Don't be so sure, says Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota. Bankers report that many people do it incorrectly. Here are some tips?

- * Use checks numerically. They usually are grouped in pads of 25.
- * Be sure the date is correct. Banks post the date.
- * Type or write the name of the person or firm to whom the check is payable.
- * Enter the check amount (in figures) opposite the dollar sign as \$20.^{no}/₁₀₀.
- * Write close to the left margin so that altering the amount is difficult.
- * Sign your name on the bottom line exactly as it appears on the bank signature card.
- * Fill in the memo line telling what the payment is for.

* * * *

Women and Money

Women own 65 percent of the private wealth in the country and inherit two-thirds of the estates left by men, according to Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota. This indicates how important it is for women to be aware of family money.

Sadly, half of all widows have used up their husbands' insurance benefits within 18 months and one out of four exhausts the insurance money within 60 days, Mrs. Jordahl says.

* * * *

add 1--better banking briefs

Keeping the Check Register

One of the first steps toward orderly financial affairs is keeping a complete record of all checks written. To keep the check book register accurate, consider these points, says Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota:

- * List the check number
- * Be sure the date recorded is correct
- * Record the name of the payee
- * Record the correct check amount.

After each listing, subtract the amount of the check from the previous balance and write in the new balance. Do this as the check is written, Mrs. Jordahl advises. Also carefully record any deposits or automatic withdrawals so the balance is always up-to-date.

* * * *

Your Endorsement

How you endorse a check can depend on the purpose for which it is intended. Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota, says there are three common endorsements.

- * Blank endorsement--This involves the written signature of the payee and should be done at the time of deposit or cashing the check.
- * Endorsement in full--This states that the check is to be paid to a certain party plus the payee's signature. Example: Pay to the order of the A.B. Company, John Doe.
- * Restrictive endorsement--This limits the receiver as to what can be done with the funds. It is commonly used when checks are prepared for deposit. Example: For deposit only, John Doe.

* * * *

add 2--your endorsement

The Art of Depositing

To be sure that a check deposited to your bank account is handled correctly, here are some pointers from Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota.

- * Write or type the date of deposit. Check to be sure it is accurate.
- * List the currency or cash to be deposited.
- * List the checks to be deposited by identification.
- * Show the total of the entire deposit.
- * Subtract any cash received out of the check or checks being deposited. Sign the signature line exactly as it appears on the bank's signature card.

* * * *

The Balancing Act

Don't dread the monthly process of reconciling your bank statement. Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota, says if your check register is up-to-date, the process should be easy. Here are her hints.

- * Look for charges (other than checks) made against your account.
- * Subtract these charges from your checkbook register.
- * Sort the checks in numerical order and compare the check and deposit amounts before checking them off in your checkbook register.
- * Add deposits not credited to your account.
- * Deduct all checks outstanding--those not checked off and thus not yet charged to your account.
- * The adjusted balance should agree with the balance in your checkbook register.

If the two balances don't agree, check your addition and subtraction carefully. Look again at the carryover balance from page to page in the register. Be sure that bank service charges have been included. Look to see if the magnetically printed amount of each check at the right hand lower corner agrees with the amount of the check in your register.

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DIET COULD RAISE
MILK FAT TEST

An increase in the rate of feeding forage to dairy cows will usually correct a milk fat depression problem, according to University of Minnesota workers.

Donald Otterby, animal scientist, and Michael Hutjens, extension dairy nutritionist, report that changes in the ration may improve a depressed fat test. While genetics control the cow's ultimate fat output, diet will also affect test. Associated with low fat are high concentrate-low forage rations, reduced particle size of forages, large amounts of pelleted feeds, lush pastures, long term underfeeding and unsaturated oils.

Dairy rations should contain at least one-third forage dry matter to maintain milk fat test, they said. Fiber content should be 15-17 percent. For Minnesota producers, rations of 40-50 percent forage provide the correct fiber content.

"Certainly, particle size is important," Otterby and Hutjens said. "Fine grinding will reduce test." Adding coarse, long forage has been helpful in improving fat content. Fiber levels of grain mixtures may be increased by adding beet pulp, oats, ear corn or bran.

Other ways of partially restoring fat tests are through coarser grinding of grains, adding dry feed when ensiled feeds are used, more frequent feeding and using complete, blended rations.

Milk fat is influenced by the buffering within the rumen, they said. Saliva is the major source of the buffer. "Usually less saliva is secreted during eating of concentrates or immature forage than when mature forage is consumed. About four times as much saliva is secreted when hay is consumed as compared to concentrates."

-more-

add 1--diet could raise milk fat test

When rations which depress fat content must be fed, buffers may be added.

Sodium or potassium bicarbonate, at 1-2 percent of the grain mix, appear to restore fat level. Approach the 1-2 percent gradually, however, to avoid cows going off feed.

Another buffer is magnesium oxide. A combination of sodium bicarbonate and magnesium oxide also appear beneficial.

Dried whey can be added at 10 percent of grain dry matter to partially prevent a drop in milk fat. Whey also provides energy and other nutrients.

Approximately five percent bentonite in the concentrate appears to alleviate fat depression. Methionine hydroxy analog has resulted in higher fat test of cows fed rations consisting of 50-60 percent concentrate and 12-14 percent protein. This additive must be well mixed with the ration because of its unpalatability.

Adding fat to the ration does not affect the milk test, but it does depress the manufacture of fatty acids within the mammary gland. Fat from the diet is simply transferred into the milk. Some research has shown a decrease in protein and lactose of milk when fat is fed in the ration.

Factors other than diet affect milk content, and generally cannot be corrected by the ration, Otterby said. Fat content often dips in the middle stage of lactation, and it rises during a fever even though quantity of milk will decrease. Fat test will also fluctuate seasonally.

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DAIRY GOAT
SESSION SET

The first annual Dairy Goat Conference is scheduled for Nov. 11, 1978. It's intended for goat breeders, educators, veterinarians, and other interested people. The one-day conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Earle Brown Continuing Education Center at the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus.

Major themes include herd health (reproduction, mastitis, respiratory disease, and parasite control) and marketing. Sessions on feeding, economics, selection, classification, and DHI will be presented during a fast moving program. Paul Ashbrook, past president of the American Dairy Goat Association, will be the key note speaker.

Registration materials and further information can be obtained from the Office of Special Programs, 405 Coffey Hall, 1420 Eckles Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Goat enthusiasts, here's a chance to get your questions answered. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

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LACTATING COWS NEED HIGH
CALCIUM, PHOSPHORUS LEVELS

Lactating dairy cows require large amounts of calcium and phosphorus, but many natural feedstuffs contain small quantities of one or both of these minerals, University of Minnesota researchers report.

Michael Hutjens, extension dairyman, and Donald Otterby, animal scientist, explain that grains are low in calcium content but higher in phosphorus. Legumes usually are good sources of calcium, but not phosphorus. "Supplements should be provided that correct calcium and/or phosphorus inadequacies of the dairy rations," they say.

An individual animal's requirements vary according to whether she is dry, lactating or pregnant and her level of milk production. A cow producing 30 lb. of milk will need 57 grams of calcium and 43 grams of phosphorus daily. At 60 lb. she needs 93 grams calcium, 69 grams phosphorus and at 90 lb. the levels are 128 grams calcium and 95 phosphorus.

For maintenance purposes, the cow needs only 22 grams calcium and 17 grams phosphorus. When the dry cow feeds on legume forage, her calcium intake may be too high. "Avoid intakes higher than 100 grams of calcium and 45 grams of phosphorus per day for the dry cow," Hutjens and Otterby say.

Too much mineral feeding may contribute to milk fever. A low calcium ration fed two weeks before freshening could reduce milk fever problems. Feeds low in calcium include corn silage, straw, grass hay and grain.

-more-

add 1--lactating cows need high calcium

The recommended ratio of calcium to phosphorus is about two parts calcium to one part phosphorus. The amount of minerals fed is more important than the ratio, however. Rations based on alfalfa may have ratios of five parts calcium to one part phosphorus, resulting in too little phosphorus intake. A supplement is recommended for this situation.

To determine the cost of a supplement, divide the price per 100 lb. by the percentage of the minerals you want. For example, if a 100 lb. bag contains 18 percent phosphorus and costs \$12.60, 1 lb. of phosphorus will cost you 70 cents (\$12.60 divided by 18 equals 70 cents).

In order to absorb and use most of the minerals supplied, the dairy animal needs vitamin D. Sun-Cured forages, cod-liver oil, sunlight and supplementation with a vitamin premix provide it.

For details on mineral requirements and levels supplied by various supplements, see Dairy Husbandry Fact Sheet No. 8. It is available at county extension offices or the Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, 55108.

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ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

WITH HOME VALUES RISING
IS YOUR INSURANCE ADEQUATE?

If your home burned down, how much would you have to pay to build a new house of the same size and quality? This is a question that Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota, suggests homeowners ask themselves. It could point out problems with your homeowners insurance.

Millions of property owners nationwide are not insuring their dwellings for anywhere near the replacement value, she says. Rising home values have contributed to this. A home built in 1970 for \$25,000 is probably worth more than \$48,000 today, according to construction cost data from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

As an example, if you own a home with a replacement cost of \$45,000, only a \$45,000 homeowners policy would provide full replacement for your dwelling. Mrs. Jordahl says a home should always be insured for at least 80 percent of the replacement value. Some insurance companies recommend 90 percent minimum coverage.

There is a good reason for this, Mrs. Jordahl says. Normally insurance pays a depreciated value for damaged or lost property. If you carry 80 percent homeowners coverage, however, most companies will provide full payment for any loss or damage. Depreciation will not be a factor at 80 percent coverage or more, but it will enter in at a lower percentage of coverage.

The amount of your policy also determines other kinds of protection provided by the coverage. Suppose, for example, that you insure your \$45,000 house for 80 percent of replacement value or \$36,000. With this coverage, your home furnishings and personal property are insured for \$18,000 or half of the dwelling amount. Other structures on your property--an unattached garage, for instance--will be insured for 10 percent of the dwelling or \$3,600. Twenty percent of the dwelling or \$7,200 is available for living expenses if you cannot live in your home because of fire damage.

It's important to keep these figures in mind when insuring your home, Mrs. Jordahl says. Many insurance companies now raise coverage automatically at renewal time. They base the raise on the inflation rate in your area. Of course, you need not go along with this approach, Mrs. Jordahl says. But if you decide not to, it could have costly consequences.

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KEEPING TRACK OF \$\$\$
REQUIRES A MASTER PLAN

Does your race between income and expenses seem to be strewn with more obstacles every month? If so, you may need to learn some money management skills, says Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota.

It's too important to leave to chance, she suggests. "You've got to work at developing a budget. Often people who start keeping track of their spending are surprised at where their money goes. Much of it may go to areas where you really didn't intend to spend."

But money management is more than just writing out a budget, Mrs. Jordahl stresses. To be successful at managing your money better you need to assess your values and discover what makes you happy. With these things in mind, set short and long-term goals designed to bring you closer to what you value.

Once drawn up, budgets should be tools, not masters. Mrs. Jordahl says, "If carefully planned, budgets should help you meet your goals and still be flexible enough to work as your financial assistant."

Single people often have the most freedom in establishing a workable budget because they have full control over spending. For husbands and wives to become skilled money managers, constant two-way communication is a must, Mrs. Jordahl says. "Too often problems arise when partners just aren't willing to openly discuss finances."

There is no formula on how much a family should spend on food, shelter, clothing and transportation. Some will depend on a family's age and life style, but Mrs. Jordahl suggests that reading family budgeting articles in magazines such as "Changing Times" or "Money" may stimulate your thinking and give you some insights on how others control their finances.

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FOUR STEPS TO BUDGETING
HELP CONTROL SPENDING

So you want to establish a budget? Good for you, says Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota. "You'll have to work at it," she warns. "Often people who start keeping records on their spending are very surprised at where their money goes."

She suggests a four-step process developed by the Institute of Life Insurance in New York.

First, add total monthly income including any funds received in addition to regular earnings. Next, in a separate column, add all fixed monthly expenses such as housing and installment payments, insurance premiums or regular savings.

In the third step, establish monthly living expenses including items purchased regularly such as food, utilities, maintenance on your home or automobile, transportation costs and clothing. Don't forget about medical and dental costs, recreation and a personal allowance.

As the fourth step, establish an emergency fund to provide a fixed amount of money to help with unexpected expenses.

Now add steps two, three and four to find total monthly expenditure and subtract this from income. You probably will need to make some adjustments to provide the best possible money management for your needs.

Areas for "belt tightening" vary, but Mrs. Jordahl points out a few where many people find they are able to save.

* Areas of little importance. Replace snack foods with fruit or other more nutritious foods. Trim purchases of convenience foods when minimal effort at home would achieve the same, or better, results.

-more-

add 1--four steps to budgeting

- * Productive skills. Try gardening, cutting hair, sewing. Do-it-yourself projects can be both fulfilling and economical.
- * Free public services. Instead of buying magazines or books, investigate the public library. Research free concerts, theatre performances and lectures in your area.
- * Sales. Make an effort to buy at lower costs. Use coupons for items you would buy even without the savings.
- * Practicality. Buy only what you need and what will provide you with the most dependable service.

Budgets won't work miracles, but Mrs. Jordahl says that setting time aside each month to plan purchases will help you make wise decisions and get the most from money you have available.

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CORNFIELD FEEDERS MAY
REQUIRE EXTRA PROTEIN

Lactating beef cows feeding in harvested cornfields often need extra protein, a University of Minnesota extension specialist says.

"The big danger with corn stover is that it is low in digestible protein," Robert Jacobs, animal husbandman, explains. "There have been cow losses in Minnesota caused by corn stover feeding without proper supplementation."

Many farmers graze lactating beef cows in cornfields during early fall. "Those cows do very well if they have a hay crop residue field nearby," Jacob says. Without such a field, each animal should be fed 4 lb. of high quality legume hay each day, protein blocks, protein cubes scattered in nearby pasture, or liquid protein in a lick-tank arrangement.

Dry, pregnant cows can feed on stover for up to two months without extra protein. They should have free access to trace mineralized salt and dicalcium phosphate or monosodium phosphate. Commercial mixtures with 10-20 percent phosphorus can also be fed.

Because corn stover's digestible protein content is slightly below the minimum requirement, even dry beef cows may "go down" if fed longer than two months without supplementation, Jacob says. No medical treatment will save these cattle, and they must be slaughtered where they lay.

Yearling feedlot cattle should feed in harvested fields only as long as they can find ear corn. During this time they need protein blocks in nearby bunks or liquid protein in a lick-tank arrangement. Each animal will consume about 0.7-1.0 lb. of protein block and up to 0.5 lb. liquid protein per day.

Yearlings should be allowed to eat as much stover material as they want. When the fields are gleaned of grain, they should be placed in the feedlot to continue gaining where they will be finished for market, Jacob says.

His testing shows corn stover crude protein content at 4.6-6.4 percent. Less than half of this protein (about 37 percent) is digestible, however. A dry, pregnant cow at 1,100 lb. needs at least a half-pound of digestible protein to maintain her weight. Consuming 20 lb. of cornstalks that contain 5.9 percent crude protein will provide her only .44 lb. of digestible protein.

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FALLING LEAVES
ARE GOOD START
FOR COMPOST HEAP

With a minimum of effort, a compost heap can supply you with useful garden fertilizer. And some of the raw material is under foot right now, says Deborah Brown, assistant extension horticulture specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Leaves, grass clippings, corn stalks and the peelings, pods and vegetable tops from household garbage are all candidates for the compost heap. Ms. Brown suggests that mixtures of coarse and compacted materials make the most successful compost heaps. By shredding dry plant materials with a power lawn mower, you can increase the rate of composting and maintain proper air and moisture in the heap.

To begin a compost heap, layer coarse materials such as corn stalks and heavy stems in about a five foot square area. Shredded or fine wastes should be added in six inch layers. On top of each layer, sprinkle completed compost or black top soil and a nitrogen source such as high nitrogen fertilizer, blood meal, cotton seed meal or soybean meal.

Sprinkle each layer so that it is moist but not soggy, Ms. Brown says. There is no need to add a commercial starter or inoculum. All the microbes needed to decompose the plant materials are already present in the top soil or completed compost that you add between each layer.

Keep the interior of the heap moist but not waterlogged. An actively working heap becomes hot in the center and may reach 150° or higher, Ms. Brown says. When it begins to cool, stir the pile to introduce oxygen and bring undecayed materials into the center.

-more-

add 1--falling leaves

Heaps built late in the fall will not be ready for use the following spring, Ms. Brown says. Warm spring weather, however, will probably speed decomposition so that a well managed pile should be ready within six to eight weeks. Even if the pile isn't stirred and attended to regularly, it will decompose but at a slower rate. Such compost heaps take about a year before they are ready to use.

Ms. Brown cautions not to add food scraps that are attractive to rodents. These include meat scraps and cereals. Use only peelings, pods and vegetable wastes. Grease and fat slow the decay of other organic materials so they should not be added to the heap.

Odors may arise from compost heaps that have too much wet plant material such as fruit, peelings or grass clippings. Overwatering can also be a culprit. She says that a properly mixed and adequately stirred compost heap will not produce objectionable odors.

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Tel. (612) 373-0710
October 30, 1978

Immediate release

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS FOCUS
ON FOOD, FARM CONCERNS

Feed recycling, farmland values, conserving energy during food preparation, and nutrition information are a few of the topics to be discussed in nearly 50 workshops scheduled during the Governor's Conference on Food and Nutrition Nov. 17-18 at the St. Paul Civic Center.

Muriel Brink, University of Minnesota (UM) extension nutritionist and conference planner, hopes the meeting will bring together farmers, processors, distributors and consumers to discuss food and nutrition concerns. Those attending will have an opportunity to make recommendations which will be forwarded to the Governor and Legislators.

Edgar Persons, University of Minnesota farm management specialist, will look at "Minnesota Agriculture: Past, Present and Future." Richard Goodrich, animal scientist, plans to explain the economic benefits and health aspects of feeding animals wastes, such as high protein chicken manure, to livestock in "On-Farm Recycling."

"Agricultural Land Values" will be the topic of Philip Raup's workshop. Raup has extensively researched land values as a UM agricultural economist. Robert Touchberry, head of the university's animal science department, will take part in "The Meat of the Issue." Discussion will center on the tenderness and flavor qualities of meat in relation to their nutritional value.

Wanda Olson will give tips on how to conserve energy while cooking and preserving food. Olson is a UM extension equipment specialist. Mary Darling, extension nutritionist, will hold a discussion on how to judge nutrition information found in food advertisements and magazine articles.

To register, contact the Governor's Food and Nutrition Conference, 150 East Kellogg Blvd., 690 American Center Bldg., St. Paul, Minn., 55101.

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CLEAN, PROTECT PESTICIDE
EQUIPMENT FROM RUST

To avoid rust problems with pesticide applying equipment next spring, farmers should thoroughly, clean their machinery this fall, University of Minnesota extension entomologist Phillip Harein says.

"Clean, check, and if necessary replace nozzle tips," Harein advises. "Store tips, screens and strainers in light oil."

To prevent corrosion in the sprayer body, flush it first with water, then with a solution including 0.5 percent trisodium phosphate or 0.5 percent activated charcoal. For herbicides in water soluble formulations, Harein advises 1-2 percent household ammonia be left in the sprayer overnight. For oil solutions, 1½ cups kerosene with detergent decontaminates the sprayer.

"Flush with water again," he says, "and refill tank with water and light oil. Empty sprayer."

Granular applicators should also be emptied and cleaned to prevent caking, clogging and eventual corrosion. Useful tools include a vacuum cleaner, compressed air and a stiff brush. "Wash hopper, agitator and delivery system. Dry completely, and apply a rust inhibitor," Harein says.

To further prepare for spring, the operator should check engines, batteries, tires, bearings, belts, chains sprockets, hoses and metering devices. Hoses should be laid out straight or coiled in a container to prevent kinking.

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Immediate release

DORMANT
GRASS SEEDING
STILL POSSIBLE

The best time to seed grass in the fall is from mid-August to mid-September, says Deborah Brown, assistant extension horticulture specialist at the University of Minnesota. But if you missed your chance then, there is still a brief period late in the fall when it can be done.

Ms. Brown says seeding when the weather is still mild enough to germinate seeds is unwise. Newly sprouted grass that is hit suddenly by low temperatures is likely to die.

Instead, wait until mid or late November when temperatures are consistently low enough to keep the seeds from germinating (beginning to grow). Ms. Brown says you can rake grass seed into the prepared ground before it freezes. If the ground is level so the seeds do not wash away with spring thaws and if the area gets no foot traffic, the seeds should sprout next spring.

If successful, this seeding method gives the gardener a head start on spring seeding, Ms. Brown says. The melting snow and mild days of early spring start the grass growing before any spring seeding could be completed.

DON'T PUT
MOWER AWAY

It's a myth that grass should be allowed to grow long just before snow covers it. Deborah Brown, assistant extension horticulture specialist at the University of Minnesota, says grass should be kept as well trimmed in the fall as in spring and summer. Excessively long grass is more likely to become diseased over the winter.

Similarly, leaves that are left on the ground and covered with snow are apt to encourage lawn problems the following season. For a healthy yard, keep the grass trimmed and free of leaves while you are awaiting the first snowfall, Ms. Brown advises.

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CORNSTALK MULCHING
SLOWS SOIL EROSION

Mulch tillage and other conservation practices could have protected lowland farm fields, roads and bridges from some of the flood damage caused by heavy rains this summer, a University of Minnesota conservationist says.

Clifton Halsey, extension specialist, says he has seen an unusual amount of soil erosion this year. Much of the eroded soil stopped at the bottoms of hills where it buried crops and filled roadside ditches. "Finger-like lines plainly visible on many cornfields on long slopes mark the beginnings of gullies in drainageways which should have been protected by grass," he says.

"A good mulch of cornstalks left from 1977 could have cut soil losses to less than half of what they actually were in large, sloping fields of corn and soybeans," Halsey says.

Farmers who are using mulch tillage, terraces, contour strips and grassed waterways say that these practices reduced runoff and erosion during 1978, Halsey added. Many southeastern Minnesota dairy farmers plant the alfalfa hay they need for feed in contour strips, which slow down erosion.

For corn and soybean growers, terraces and mulch tillage are good alternatives to unneeded alfalfa, Halsey says. During his recent visit to the Hiawatha Valley Demonstration Farm near Elba, the conservationist noted that mulch provided a great deal of protection on sloping cornfields.

"A good mulch of cornstalks left from the 1977 crop would have done the most good during May, June and July," Halsey says. "However, most farmers still bury the cornstalks with a moldboard plow or repeated trips with a disk or chisel plow. They feel they must have a clean, bare field in order to get a good crop."

Eroded soil that filled roadside ditches this summer is being cleaned out in several counties in order to restore drainage and protect roads from washouts. Expense to taxpayers is also incurred when the fine soil material settles in river pools and backwaters, shortening the useful lives of these wetlands.

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LONG TERM PROFITS EXPECTED
WITH ADAPTABLE HOG PROGRAMS

Hog production, the most profitable livestock venture in the corn belt, is adaptable for almost any Minnesota farmer, University of Minnesota agricultural economists report.

Paul Hasbargen and Duty Greene see a profitable five to ten years ahead for beginning or expanding hog producers in three programs. They say the feeder pig enterprise fits on smaller farms "where labor is plentiful." The intermediate-sized farmer could profit from the complete hog program--farrow-to-finish--if feed grains are available and "the operator has an interest in hog production."

The third type of hog enterprise, finishing feeder pigs, suits the farmer with surplus feed grains, but limited labor available for farrowing.

Future returns on labor and facilities appear favorable for all three programs "if average or above average management is available," Hasbargen and Greene say. Raising hogs from farrow to finish should return \$400-\$450 per sow and two litters of seven pigs each. The feeder pig producer should earn about \$300 on the same animals. The hog finisher would gain almost \$10 per head for labor and facilities.

All the projected returns are based on a \$40 per hundredweight selling price for finished hogs, \$38 per feeder pig and \$2.10 per bushel of corn.

Before expanding, the complete program producer should compare his performance with standards Hasbargen and Greene developed for three housing systems. They advised that in the high investment confinement system at least 8.1 pigs be weaned per litter, 13-14 hogs be produced per female kept and 400-410 lb. of feed and 70 lb. concentrates be converted for each 100 lb. produced.

-more-

add 1--long term profits expected

The expansion-minded operator might profit from the high-cost confinement system if "he will use the labor saved to produce more pigs, and his capital position is such that he can handle the cash flow requirements of the loan," Hasbargen and Greene concluded.

"Opportunities in Hog Production" is available from county extension offices or Agriculture and Applied Economics, University of Minnesota Extension, St. Paul, 55108.

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Immediate release

LIVING "IN SIN" TO
AVOID SOCIAL SECURITY
CUTS UNNECESSARY

Senior citizens who have been "living in sin" without the benefit of a marriage license to avoid cuts in social security payments can now plan for a January wedding.

Starting on the first of the year there will no longer be any cuts in social security benefits for widows and widowers who remarry after they become age 60, says Paul R. Hasbargen, extension economist at the University of Minnesota.

Currently social security benefits based on a deceased spouse's earnings are cut by 50 percent if the recipient remarries.

Those widows and widowers who are currently receiving reduced benefits because they remarried will be entitled to increases in their social security payments starting in January of 1979, Hasbargen says. On the other hand, those couples who have been living together in unwedded bliss in order to avoid reduced social security payments can, after Jan. 1, begin living in wedded bliss without incurring any payment reductions.

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Immediate release

PLAN AHEAD
TO TULIP TIME

It's not too late to plant tulip bulbs suggests Deborah Brown, assistant extension horticulture specialist at the University of Minnesota. As long as the ground can still be worked, the bulbs can be planted.

Some nurseries and garden supply stores may have close-out prices on tulip bulbs at this time of year. Ms. Brown suggests that this may be an ideal time to get started on an attractive flower garden next spring.

GIVE HOUSE PLANTS
PLENTY OF LIGHT

Now that your house plants are indoors again, make sure that they are getting adequate light. Deborah Brown, assistant extension horticulture specialist at the University of Minnesota, says short cloudy days with low light intensity plague house plants in northern climates.

Plants may need to be moved from one window to a sunnier one or possibly closer to a window to get as much light as possible during the fall and winter. "When in doubt, always err on the side of additional light," Ms. Brown says. "Chances are your plants will be healthier for it."

She also warns against fertilizing plants during the low light fall and winter months unless the plants show definite signs of deficiency or are growing rapidly in a sunny window. Don't try to jolt a plant out of a slow growth period by fertilizing it, she says.

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Immediate release

GET YOUR ROSES
READY FOR WINTER

The rose bushes that delight us all summer ask something in return this time of year. They need protection against the low and fluctuating temperatures of winter.

Deborah Brown, assistant extension horticulture specialist at the University of Minnesota, recommends laying the bushes in a trench and covering them with soil, then straw or loose leaves. This method, known as the "Minnesota tip," is the best protection a gardener can give.

Begin by watering the soil around the rose bushes. Do this generously for several days to keep the soil moist and workable. The day before tipping the bushes, spray the plants with a good dormant spray such as a liquid lime-sulphur material and tie the canes together.

Dig a trench, starting away from and working toward the base of the bush. Dig it as long as the bush is high. Gently pull the soil away from the area where the roots begin branching and the canes originate. Loosen the soil around the roots and tip the tied canes into the trench, covering the bush well with soil and about 18 inches of straw, marsh hay or loose leaves.

Mounding is another acceptable method of winter protection, Ms. Brown says. This involves tying the canes together and mounding the base of each plant with six to eight inches of soil. The gardener should then put wire netting around the entire bed and fill the enclosure with about three feet of leaves and a layer of marsh hay.

With either method, remove the covering in stages as it thaws next spring. Carefully raise tipped bushes and replace the soil around the plants. Mounded canes should have the soil mound removed. Water the plants thoroughly and spray them with an all-purpose fungicide and insecticide.

Ms. Brown warns that plastic or foam-type rose cones do not offer as much protection and they tend to trap moisture, which can encourage diseases. If you do use the cones, however, she suggests that they be hinged or cut open from the top to allow air circulation on mild days next spring.

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LONG TERM HOG PRICES
TO AVERAGE \$39-\$41

Because market hogs prices are likely to average \$39-\$41 per hundredweight in the next five to ten years (1978 dollars), and because programs exist to fit most Minnesota farms, the hog enterprise will continue to be the "mortgage lifter" for many of the state's farmers, extension economists predict.

University of Minnesota market watchers Paul Hasbargen, Richard Hawkins and Duty Greene foresee a \$46 average price in 1979 for finished hogs and feeder pigs. In the longer term, they predict \$40 per hundredweight for finished animals and \$38 feeder pigs.

The agricultural economists suggest a long run planning price of \$2 to \$2.25 for corn. They figure return for labor and facilities from the complete hog program--farrow to finish including sows--at \$19.19 per hundredweight in 1979, and \$12.52 in the long term.

The feeder pig producer should make \$30.14 per pig in 1979 after feed and operating costs, the extension specialists report. The long term figure, with corn prices at \$2.10, is \$20.69.

"Future hog prices will continue to vary in four to five year cycles, but will allow considerably higher returns for labor and facilities," the economists said. "The average price of barrows and gilts increased from \$16 a decade ago to \$42 for the past five years."

Minnesota hog farms showed higher returns to investment than any other major farm type in the seven years from 1968 through 1974, their research indicates.

"Hog Producers Planning Guide" FM-503 is available at your county extension office.

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October 30, 1978

ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE
ON FOOD, NUTRITION
SETS SPEAKERS

A debate on the proposed national dietary goals by two nationally known authorities will be one of the opening day events at the Minnesota Governor's Conference on Food and Nutrition, Nov. 17-18 at the St. Paul Civic Center.

Muriel Brink, conference planning committee chairperson and extension nutritionist at the University of Minnesota, says the conference will also include nearly 60 workshops to examine current issues in food and nutrition.

The debaters will be Joanna Dwyer of Tufts University and Gilbert Leveille of Michigan State University. Dwyer, who favors the dietary goals, is an author, columnist and head of the nutrition center at Francis Stern Medical Center. Leveille, who opposes the goals, is former chairperson for the food and nutrition board of the National Research Council.

Serving on a reactor panel for the debate will be Gio Gori from the National Cancer Institute; Robert Harkin, Grocery Manufacturers of America; Polly Mann, author and family food cooperative activist from Marshall, Minn.; Robert Touchberry, head of the Animal Science Department at the University of Minnesota; Kenneth Egertson, University of Minnesota agricultural economist representing the implications for food crop producers; and Bob Benedict, state senator and chairperson of the senate's nutrition subcommittee.

The conference registration fee is \$10 for both days or \$6 for one day. Students and those over 62 may attend both days for \$6 or one day for \$3. Those interested in attending only the Friday evening debate may register for \$3.

To register, contact the Governor's Food and Nutrition Conference, 150 East Kellogg Boulevard, 690 American Center Building, St. Paul, MN 55101.

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October 30, 1978

ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

"FAMILY WEEK" APPROPRIATE
AS HOLIDAY SEASON BEGINS

Thanksgiving with its rich family traditions is an appropriate time to note "National Family Week" set Nov. 19 through 25. Holidays give us a chance to reflect on rituals and traditions that bind families together, says Ronald Pitzer, extension family life specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Family traditions don't all focus on holiday celebrations, however. They can be as elaborate as the events surrounding Christmas, or as simple as Sunday morning pancakes or viewing a particular television program together each week.

"Anything a family likes well enough to repeat on a regular occasion develops into a tradition," Pitzer says. Some traditions evolve gradually so that family members can barely recall how they got started. Birthday celebrations might be an example. The simple cake, ice cream and gift opening may take on new elements each year. Soon a family has an intricate routine for birthdays including certain foods, guests or privileges for the family member with the birthday.

Other traditions may not change over the years. The tradition of opening gifts on Christmas morning versus Christmas eve may depend on how husband and wife celebrated the holiday when they were young. Once established, the gift opening routine often remains the same for years.

Families benefit from traditions, Pitzer says. They give young children a sense of security and help draw family members together. They also provide common memories and pleasant associations. When adults continue traditions that they learned as children, they establish a link with the past. If their children adopt the customs and carry them to their own homes, they provide continuity into the future.

Pitzer suggests that during National Family Week, families should examine the traditions that they observe. "And think about other things that you enjoy doing together," he says. "Is there an opportunity to build pleasant traditions around these? Even a simple weekly routine such as distributing allowances on Friday evening or reading the Sunday funny pages together can become a valued tradition."

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CA

Take Special Precautions With Elm Firewood

Dutch elm disease may be apparent mostly in the warmer months, but it is a problem that needs attention year-round. Homeowners can help in controlling the disease by taking some special precautions with firewood this winter.

According to William Phillipsen, extension entomologist at the University of Minnesota, elm firewood is a concern now because it is a favorite breeding place for the elm bark beetles that spread the Dutch elm disease fungus.

"Even though the beetles are not active during the winter they are a problem because once spring arrives they will emerge from the dead wood and infect healthy elm trees," he commented. "That is why it is important to have as little elm wood around as possible by the end of the winter."

Phillipsen feels there are two things people can do now that will have an impact on disease levels this spring. First, don't bring elm wood from rural areas into communities where Dutch elm disease control programs are in effect. Homeowners who want to transport wood from the country for fuel this winter should try to get ash, maple, oak, or some other wood that will burn equally well, but that will not pose a threat if there is some left over at the end of the winter. He points out that there is a state regulation forbidding people to transport elm wood into areas where Dutch elm disease control programs are in operation, so people should be doubly careful about the wood they select.

The second way people can help is by using up any elm wood they may already have. Between September 15 and April 1, it is legal to keep elm wood with the bark on that may have accumulated because of removal efforts and other reasons.

"Homeowners should try to burn elm firewood before any other types of wood they may have on hand so that it will be completely disposed of by April 1," says Phillipsen. "In this way, beetle larvae that may be in the logs will be destroyed, and there will be fewer breeding sites around next year for the beetles that do emerge."

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St. Paul, MN 55108
November, 1978

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and employer.

SPECIAL SHORT COURSE SCHEDULE (November 1978 - April 1979)

- October 20-24 Management Training & Development Conference; Bank for Cooperatives, Marquette Inn, Minneapolis, MN. A three day conference for recently appointed junior officers of the Bank for Cooperatives. The course is intended for junior officers and analysts of the 13 Banks for Cooperatives in the United States. *CN
- October 23-26 Property Valuation Short Course. A program for certified assessors to continue their education in the assessment field and for town board members to be brought up to date on problems concerning the board of review process. First date locations will be held on October 23, St. Cloud; October 24, Hibbing; October 25, Thief River Falls; October 26, Fergus Falls; October 30, Marshall; October 31, Willmar; November 1, Rochester; November 2, Eden Prairie. *GW
- October 30-November 2
- October 24 Commercial Flower Growers, Earle Brown Continuing Education Center, St. Paul Campus. For commercial flower growers, garden store operators and greenhouse managers. *RM
- October 25-26 Food Pest Management Training Conference, Sheraton Inn N.W., Brooklyn Park, MN. For food processing, wholesale selling and manufacturing pesticide applicators, commercial fumigators, and structural pest control operators. *EA
- October 27-28 Minnesota Home Economics Association Legislative Workshop, Earle Brown Continuing Education Center, St. Paul Campus. To explore current issues and strategies for impacting on legislative processes. *CC
- October 31 Beginning Income Tax, October 31, Brainerd Holiday Inn; November 1, Austin, Cedar Inn; November 2, Marshall, Southwest State University. A one day short course designed for beginning income tax practitioners. Basic principles and practices will be covered regarding Minnesota state and federal income tax filing procedures. *CN

* For further information call The Office of Special Programs

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

+ For further information call the Research or Experiment Station designated.

- December 6 Meats Up-Dating Conference, Andrew Boss Laboratory, Meat Science, St. Paul Campus. A conference on meat information for food educators and dietitians. To provide educational materials and reference on meats. To provide an opportunity for educators and dietitians to confer with meats and cooking specialists. *GW
- December 6-7 Stored Grain Pest Management Training Conference, Sheraton Inn Northwest, Brooklyn Park, MN. For country and terminal grain elevator personnel and others using chemical methods of pest control in stored grain. *EA
- December 6 Beef Cattle Day - Crookston +
- December 11-12 Quality Assurance Workshop: Owner/Manager I Course. St. Paul Campus Student Center. The fifteen hour course emphasizes Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota Department of Health sanitation regulations and food microbiology. *CC
- December 12 Beef Day, Waseca. +
- December 12-13 Soils, Fertilizer and Agricultural Pesticides Short Course, Minneapolis Auditorium. To present information on soils, fertilizers, and pesticides used in the production and marketing of food and fiber. For professional and technical personnel and those engaged in production agriculture. *EA
- January 2 Exchange Program Study Period Orientation, St. Paul Campus. *FH
- January 2- March 16 Winter Quarter Study Period for Exchange Program Participants. *FH
- January 8-9 Quality Assurance Workshop: Chef's Food Preparation Workers' Course. St. Paul Campus 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
- January 9 Swine Day, Waseca. +
- Jan. 9-11, 17-19 1979 Home Sewage Treatment Workshops. Jan. 9-11, Owatonna;
Jan. 30-Feb. 1, Jan. 17-19, Anoka; Jan. 30-Feb 1, Inver Grove Heights; Feb. 6-8,
Feb. 6-8, 20-22, Brainerd; Feb. 20-22, Alexandria; Feb. 27-Mar. 1, Hopkins;
Feb. 27-Mar. 1, March 20-22, Duluth; March 27-29, Arden Hills; April 3-5, Bemidji.
March 20-22, 27-29, For county planners, zoning officers, contractors, public health
Aprl. 3-5 inspectors and building inspectors. *GW
- January 12 Quality Assurance Workshop: Owner/Manager II Course. St. Paul Student Center. An eight hour update on quality assurance for recertification. *CC
- January 15-16 Quality Assurance Workshop: Owner/Manager I Course. St. Paul Student Center. The fifteen hour course emphasizes Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota Department of Health sanitation regulations and food microbiology. *CC
- January 16 Nature Photography Short Course. Winter Photography. Student Center, St. Paul Campus, 7-9 p.m. For amateur photographers and naturalists interested in recording the natural world with a camera. *EA

Page 5 - Special Short Course Schedule

- Feb. 27-28
Mar. 1-2 Texas Feedlot Study Tour. A four-day study tour designed to inform Minnesota cattle feeders and other cornbelt beef industry people about the nature of competition they are facing from commercial feedlots in the Southwest and the implications for feedlots in Minnesota. Feedlots to be studied are at Hereford, Dumas, Dalhart, and Gruver, Texas. *GW
- March 5-8, 12-13,
19-22, Apr. 3-5 Commercial Applicators Pesticide Workshops: March 5-6, Rochester; March 6-7, Owatonna; March 7-8, Mankato; March 12-13, St. Paul; March 19-20, Marshall; March 20-21, Morris; March 21-22, St. Cloud; April 3-4, Crookston; April 4-5, Grand Rapids. For pesticide dealers, custom applicators, educators and regulatory personnel. The first day at each location is introductory information for persons planning to take license examination. The second day will provide update information on plant and animal pest problems and pesticide for licensed applicators and will meet renewal requirements for 1980 licenses. *EA
- March 5, 7, 12,
19, 20 & April 4 Municipal Tree Inspectors Workshops: March 5, Rochester, March 7, Mankato; March 12, St. Paul; March 19, Marshall; March 20, Detroit Lakes; April 4, Grand Rapids. Update training for tree inspectors. Attendance will qualify Minnesota Tree Inspectors for recertification. *EA
- March 6 Dairy Day, Waseca. +
- March 6-9 Better Process Control, Earle Brown Continuing Education Center. Provides training, examination, and certification for employees of canning factories. *GW
- March 7-9 Minnesota Commercial Aerial Applicators Workshop, Arrowwood Lodge, Alexandria, MN. Designed for aerial pesticide dealers. To provide information of plant and animal pest problems and pesticides accreditation for retention of the pesticide applicator's license. *RM
- March 12-13 Quality Assurance Workshop: Owner/Manager I, St. Paul Campus Student Center. The fifteen hour course emphasizes Food and Drug Administration and Minnesota Department of Health sanitation regulations and food microbiology. *CC
- March 26-27 Pest Control Operators Conference, Sheraton Inn Northwest, Brooklyn Park, MN. Information of identification, prevention and safe control of structural pests. Attendance will qualify structural pest control operators for recertification. *EA
- March 14-15 Sugarbeet Growers Institute, Crookston. +
- March 16 Exchange Program Participant Graduation. *FH
- March 18-19 Commercial Small Fruit Growers, Earle Brown Continuing Education Center. For commercial small fruit growers. *RM

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Tel. (612) 373-0710
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Immediate release

SUGAR BEET PRODUCTION
COSTS PUBLISHED

The total cost of producing sugar beets in the Red River Valley averaged \$350 per acre in 1977.

The latest information on sugar beet production costs, which takes into account several recent changes in production practices, is available from the North Dakota State University Department of Agricultural Economics.

Growing beets on previously cropped land rather than summer fallow, electronic thinners, herbicides, and expansion of processing capacity are recent changes that make most cost information out-of-date. NDSU agricultural economists Steven C. Hvinden and Roger G. Johnson summarize cost data obtained from 212 personal interviews with Red River Valley growers.

Hvinden and Johnson also show the potential for increasing profits by substituting technology for hand labor in thinning and weeding. Their study is "Sugar Beet Production Costs in the Red River Valley," available from the Department of Agricultural Economics, NDSU, Fargo, N.D., 58102.

GROWER IDEA
CONTEST OPEN

Your idea of how to improve sugar beet production may be worth \$500 if entered in the 1978 Idea Contest by Nov. 30.

Grower-members of the Southern Minnesota, Minn-Dak and American Crystal Cooperatives are eligible to enter the contest, says Jerry Fitts, extension sugar-beet specialist for the University of Minnesota and North Dakota State University. Five finalists will be awarded from \$500 to \$100. Sponsor is the Sugar Beet Research and Education Board of Minnesota and North Dakota.

Entries can be single practices or a series of practices that cut costs, raise yields or simplify production, Fitts says. Contest entry blanks are available from fieldmen of the three cooperatives or Fitts, who is located at 203 Waldron Hall, State University Station, Fargo, ND, 58102.

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University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
November 6, 1978

Immediate release

PLANT ROOT ROT
RESISTANT ALFALFA

Planting resistant alfalfa varieties will help farmers avoid the phytophthora root rot damage that was widespread this summer, a University of Minnesota plant pathologist says.

Heavy rains last fall and this spring led to root rot in susceptible varieties "wherever the soil was tight and water could not drain," Fred Frosheiser explains. The disease "can wipe out stands completely," he adds.

While the dryer weather this fall will be less conducive to root rot, alfalfa on poorly drained soils is always in danger. The disease can cause stand losses of seedlings and can contribute to lower productivity in older stands if the soil remains wet for a week or more.

Five phytophthora-resistant alfalfas are Agate, Apollo, WL318, Phytor and 545. The two most winterhardy varieties are Agate and Phytor. Apollo and WL 318 are classified as moderately winterhardy.

CA,IA,FC

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Department of Information
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Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
November 6, 1978

INTERNATIONAL AG
PROJECTS ARE
GOOD INVESTMENT

International agricultural development is a good investment for states like Minnesota with strong agricultural economics, a University of Minnesota official says.

"We need to change the attitude that it's not appropriate for a state to provide funds for international activities, except perhaps for trade promotion," says Vern Freeh, assistant dean of the Institute of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics. Freeh is also the director of International Programs at the University for the next 18 months.

"In a state like Minnesota that depends heavily on foreign markets for agricultural products, it make sense for the legislature to provide funds for agricultural colleges to work with their counterparts in other parts of the world. Our future is becoming more and more dependent on other countries," he says.

The University currently has long-term commitments to work with agricultural institutions in Morocco, Indonesia and Nepal. In addition, there have been exchanges of students, faculty members or professional agriculturalists with several other countries.

Unfortunately, says Freeh, people too often equate public support for international agricultural development with expanded competition for U. S. farmers.

"There is the annoying feeling that if we help foreign countries, they will become our competitors on the world market--just as Brazilian soybean producers have been in recent years.

add one--international ag

"But the overwhelming evidence is in the other direction. World markets are growing, characterized by larger populations and higher incomes. Highly competitive U.S. and Minnesota agricultural producers have much to gain and very little to lose from any assistance we might provide to developing countries."

Improvement of agriculture in underdeveloped countries improves the economy of the whole world, says Freeh. "We need their markets. They need our agricultural products and will continue to need them, no matter how much better their own agriculture becomes."

More than a third of U. S. exports go to the less developed countries of the world. And other farm exports which go to more advanced countries are a direct result of successful U.S. foreign aid programs to Europe and Japan after World War II. "This is a good example of how strengthening the economics of developing countries can result in an even larger export market for our farm products," Freeh says.

"In addition, some of the foreign aid we send overseas comes back to Minnesota. Foreign aid dollars buy Minnesota products and Minnesota expertise." About \$50 million of foreign aid came back to Minnesota last year, \$40 million directly to producers and processors and another \$8 in contracts. "About \$1 million of the contracts are with the University of Minnesota. This helps the University while the University helps build foreign agriculture."

In addition, Minnesota agriculture benefits from cooperating with other countries by exchanging practical science information. "American agriculture has been using research from abroad for many years. Most research discoveries have some application in most parts of the world. Future advances will depend more on world-wide research."

There are other reasons for supporting international agricultural development, Freeh says. "In humanitarian terms, there is no way to meet the growing world demand for food unless we help the food deficit countries produce

add two--international ag

it in their own countries. The world is adding 70 million persons a year. The developed countries like ours have neither the productive or financial capacity to meet this demand.

"Even if we doubled our production by the year 2000, we would still be able to provide only 25 percent of the world's food supply.

"This means that we must do a better job of helping people in developing countries produce food. One way to do this is by having our universities and agricultural colleges work closely with counterparts in the food deficit countries, sharing knowledge and scientific technology.

"But this requires additional funds and faculty at our universities. So far our state and the federal government have been reluctant to provide much of either.

"There's also a need to get the U.S. Department of Agriculture more involved in world food and nutrition problems instead of leaving important decisions to our Department of State and its Agency for International Development.

"Minnesota and the U.S. are part of a global society. We no longer have the privilege of being as self-sufficient as we once were. The developing countries need our technology and our food. We need their oil, aluminum and tin.

"There's no way to have a stable world except without cooperative action to solve world problems. This has been dramatically demonstrated by recent efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East," Freeh says.

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Immediate release

AVOID SURPLUS PESTICIDE
FIRE, POLLUTION HAZARDS

Storing or disposing of surplus pesticides must be carried out carefully to avoid fire and pollution problems, a University of Minnesota extension specialist says.

Phillip Harein, entomologist, advises farmers to store chemicals in a separate, locked building. They should not be kept in the granary, machine shed, garage or barn.

"Mark a chemical storage building with a distinctive, easily read sign clearly designating it as a chemical storage area," he says. "Never permit smoking or fires within the building."

Although most pesticides are not highly flammable in the pure state, solvents or oil solutions "present a great hazard," Harein says. "A fire in a building where such chemicals are stored should be handled as though it was a flammable liquid or oil fire."

Small quantities of pesticides can be buried in a landfill approved by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. "We currently do not have a satisfactory means for disposing of large quantities" in this state, he explains. Excess pesticides must be stored in tightly sealed metal drums under lock and key until a disposal procedure is approved.

To avoid storage and disposal problems, farmers should "obtain pesticides for the current season only. Don't overstock." They may also arrange to return large containers of surplus chemicals to the supplier.

"Use pesticides that will breakdown quickly," Harein advises. "Mix only enough pesticide for your immediate needs."

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Immediate release

FARM FAMILIES NEEDED
FOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Farm families in Minnesota and surrounding states (Wisconsin and the Dakotas) are needed to host agricultural work-study student-trainees for eight months of practical training and work experience from March 23 through November 30, 1979.

About 80 student-trainees from Africa, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and nine central and northern European countries participate in the program each year.

The program, in continuous operation since 1949, is sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Office of Special Programs. The program has provided practical and academic training for 1,100 international agriculture student-trainees. Upon completion of the eight month on-the-farm training program the student-trainees are enrolled for the winter quarter study period at the University of Minnesota.

Student-trainees participating in the program have completed high school or its equivalent. The agricultural students average 22 years of age with two years of agricultural schooling and two years of farm work experience after age 18. The student-trainees wish to live with an American farm family and learn about the culture of the rural farm community. They desire agricultural training and work experience on specific kinds of farms related to their career interests and needs. The student-trainees are expected to work the same hours on the farm as their host family.

The student-trainees are from farms or agricultural backgrounds and plan to return to their home farms or to develop careers in agriculture. The student-trainees all have basic communication abilities in the English language and wish to develop full proficiency before returning to their home countries.

add 1--exchange program

Farm families wishing to host a student-trainee must meet these requirements:

1. Be willing to accept the student-trainee in so far as possible as a member of their family.
2. Be interested in the student-trainee as a person and a representative from another culture.
3. Be willing to provide the student-trainee with practical on the job training and work experience.
4. Be able and willing to pay the student-trainees \$300-\$325.00/month plus room, board and laundry.
5. Be willing when possible to introduce the student-trainee to other members of the community.

If you are interested in hosting a student-trainee, write or call now or before January 15, 1979 for a booklet that explains the program and an application form. Apply early as student-trainee applications begin arriving Dec. 1. Write or call: Fred D. Hoefer, Office of Special Programs, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108. Tel. (612) 373-0725.

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LONG RUN PROFITS APPEAR
EXCELLENT FOR BEEF COWS

The sharpest beef cow cutback in history is turning into excellent profit prospects for cow-calf herds in 1979 and the years ahead, a University of Minnesota market analyst says.

Paul Hasbargen, extension agricultural economist, predicts choice steer calves "should bring more than \$100 per hundredweight two to three years from now. When annual inflation is included, that would imply prices of more than \$80 in terms of 1978 purchasing power."

Almost half of the 20 million head drop in cattle numbers since Jan. 1, 1975, was in cows. The annual calf crop dropped over six million, and is likely to be smaller again next year.

Stronger cattle prices will encourage herd rebuilding during the next several years. Since more heifer calves must be kept back to expand the herd, feeder supplies will drop even more and add to price strength.

"Therefore, the outlook is excellent for calf prices over the next several years," Hasbargen concludes.

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Immediate release

1979 FED CATTLE PROFIT
PROSPECTS ONLY FAIR

Profit prospects appear fair to good for cattle feeding in the coming year. But, those who bought yearlings at high May prices may show little or no return on November-December markets, a University of Minnesota agricultural economist says.

Paul Hasbargen says he is less optimistic about late 1978 and early 1979 choice steer prices than some other analysts. "A planning price for choice steers in the lower \$50s is much more prudent than one in the high \$50s," he says.

Fed cattle marketings could run a strong 10 percent over year earlier levels during the next 5-6 month, Hasbargen explains. "Secondly, reduced calf slaughter, plus increased feeder imports can easily add over one million head to the supply of feeders available for slaughter in 1979."

Hasbargen expects that choice steer prices will fail to keep up with inflation in 1979. "If we examine the price changes of the past 30 years, we find that any time there was a large year-to-year change, such as occurred between 1977 and 1978, it was followed by lower prices in the following year. It appears history also suggests caution on the part of cattle feeders."

Hasbargen suggests that the prudent cattle feeder will "seriously consider forward pricing as a part of his cattle for 1979 delivery."

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Immediate release

OVERWEIGHT TRUCKS BIGGEST
TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM

Overweight trucks, not railroad abandonments, are Minnesota's biggest transportation problem, says a University of Minnesota agricultural economist.

"Non-enforcement of truck weight regulations is causing heavy wear on roads," says economist Jerry Fruin. "Almost all truckers have CB radios so they know when to get off a main traveled road if there's a weigh station open ahead. And many trucks are seriously overloaded," he adds.

Just a relatively slight overload causes correspondingly higher road stress. A 10 percent overload causes about a 50 percent increase in wear and tear on roads. And a 20-25 percent overload causes a 100 percent increase in stress.

"We must start enforcing weight restrictions or we won't have any roads left," says Fruin. "One solution would be to allow enforcement officers to issue tickets based on terminal weights."

There's already a deficit in state coffers for road maintenance that could lead to a gas tax increase, the economist says. Increases in state revenues from gasoline sales have not kept up with inflationary costs of road maintenance. For example, if gas sales go up three percent a year but costs of road repair go up 11 percent due to inflation, there's an eight percent deficit.

Part of the problem "may be that we're trying to maintain too many roads in rural areas," Fruin says. In addition, he says that some money currently going to bridge replacement could be better used for road maintenance. "If a bridge is structurally sound but is a bit substandard on clearance, it may be more feasible to spend money on road maintenance instead of replacing that bridge."

-more-

add 1--overweight trucks

Regarding railroads, Fruin says that many lines up for abandonment are in "terrible shape." Most of them are not economical to maintain or rebuild. "Many of them have 100-year old rails and are in no condition to handle 100-ton hopper cars. For many years we attempted to maintain both highways and railroads and the rail lines lost out."

The current large number of abandonments reflects the fact that we cannot afford to maintain two competing transportation systems in low use areas, Fruin says.

CA, IA

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November 6, 1978

ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

MATTRESS CARE:
EASY BUT ESSENTIAL

You use it eight hours a day, but chances are you take it for granted-- possibly more so than any other household item. Linda Reece, extension, interior design-furnishings specialist at the University of Minnesota, says mattresses need proper care to perform satisfactorily.

She suggests turning a new mattress end over end and side for side monthly. Once it is six months old, turn it only once or twice a year. Be sure a mattress and box spring foundation are supported adequately. For a queen-sized bed this means a frame with a center crossbar and five or six legs. A king-sized bed needs both side and center rails.

Always use a mattress pad and, if you wish, a box spring cover. Remember to launder the mattress pad every few times you change sheets. At the same time air the mattress for an hour or so before you remake the bed. An occasional vacuuming with the upholstery attachment of your vacuum cleaner removes surface soil and helps fluff the mattress interior.

Ms. Reece suggests cleaning slightly soiled mattress ticking with the suds from a solution of mild detergent and water. Rinse with a sponge wrung out of water. Let one side dry thoroughly before covering or turning. Never use dry cleaning fluids, she cautions.

When turning or moving a mattress, never bend or roll it, she says.

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ATT: Extension Home Economists

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WICKER IS TRENDY
THROUGHOUT HOUSE

Wicker has come in from the porch and is setting style trends throughout the house. Linda Reece, extension interior design-furnishings specialist at the University of Minnesota says wicker has a lot to offer the homeowner. It is reasonably priced. It's lightweight yet sturdy and its handmade appearance fits with the craze for handcrafted decorator pieces.

What exactly is wicker? Miss Reece explains that it can describe many kinds of light, airy furniture made from natural materials. But true wicker is woven from reed, willow or rattan.

If you're shopping for wicker, look for tight, closely-woven construction. Press down on chair seats to be sure they are firm and springy. Run your fingers along furniture edges to check for loose or protruding strands.

Antique wicker can be a "buyer beware" item, Miss Reece cautions. The weave is often brittle and the craftsmanship isn't necessarily any better than it is today. Unless you find a real bargain, stick to the newer designs, she suggests.

Once in your home, remember that wicker is a thirsty material. It dries out if you don't wet it down regularly. If the strands get very dry, they can break off. Hose down wicker furniture at least once a year. If you live in an apartment, put the furniture in the shower and let it dry completely before putting it back into use.

The upkeep on wicker is minimal, Miss Reece says. Just wipe up spills with a damp cloth and dust regularly.

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Immediate release

NUTRIENT CONTENT OF NEW
FERTILIZERS COULD BE COSTLY

Before purchasing an expensive, new fertilizer, the buyer may want to spend a few minutes figuring the real economic value of its nutrient content--and avoid paying more than the product is worth.

Curt Overdahl, University of Minnesota extension soil specialist, gives tips on how to judge a new fertilizer. "Don't be impressed with secret ingredients," he says. "Be cautious of small quantities. Less than a quart per acre provides so few nutrients that even a bushel increase isn't possible."

The most accurate way to judge the product is through simple arithmetic. Prices change, but for this example we will assume nitrogen (N) costs 15 cents per pound, phosphate is also 15 cents, and potash is 10 cents. Figure the cost for each nutrient, add them, and multiply by 20 to get cost per ton.

(Contact county extension personnel for the current price on nutrients.)

If the fertilizer contains 7-2-2 in nutrients, the N costs \$1.05 per 100 lb: (cwt.) $\$.15 \times 7 = \1.05 , phosphate costs \$.30 ($\$.15 \times 2 = \$.30$), and potash is \$.20 ($\$.10 \times 2 = \$.20$). The total cost per cwt. is \$1.55. Multiplying by 20 results in a cost of \$31.50 per ton. That would be the economic value of the product's nutrient content.

Some liquid fertilizers are priced by the quart or gallon. Several products weigh about 10.4 lb. per gallon. For easy figuring, use 10 lb. Convert nutrient percentages to decimals by dividing by 100 (N=.07, phosphate=.02 and potash = .02. Multiply these decimals by the weight per gallon (10 lb.) The result is .7 lb. of N, .2 lb. phosphate, and .2 lb. potash for a total weight of 1.1 lb. of nutrients per gallon.

add 1--nutrient content of new fertilizers

The next step is to figure value in dollars. N costs \$.105 (\$.15 X .7 lb. = \$.105), phosphate is \$.030 (\$.15 X .2 lb. \$.030) and potash is \$.010 (\$.10 X .2 lb. = \$.010) for a total nutrient cost of \$.145 or 14½ cents per gallon. For the quart price, divide by 4 to get \$.036 or about 3½ cents per quart.

Sometimes the seller will insist on special soil practices along with the application of his product, Overdahl says. "It's possible these practices are increasing yield, not the product."

High prices do not assure quality, he adds. "Talk to a local dealer whose reputation has been established. He can help evaluate the new product."

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Immediate release

BE READY FOR
WINTER STORMS

Severe blizzards in the past few years left some rural families snowbound for up to 10 days without electricity. Now is the time to plan protection against snow and ice storms.

University of Minnesota Extension Conservationist Clifton Halsey advises knowing what weather conditions are expected and what changes might occur. "This is especially important if any of the family is going to be away from home or if you have livestock out-of-doors."

Plans should be made for electrical failures. Every home should have a good battery-operated radio and flashlights with extra fresh batteries and bulbs. Kerosene and gas lanterns and stoves with extra fuel should be considered.

While most rural people usually have at least a week's food supply, families should have food that can be eaten without much cooking if fuel is short or electricity is off. People on special diets or who must take special medicines should always have a week's advance supply.

"People can take precautions to avoid many emergency rescue situations by having a complete supply of first aid materials at home. Another is to be sure the entire family is immunized for preventable diseases like polio, diphtheria, tetanus and flu," Halsey says.

If an ice or wind storm is developing, store extra water in kettles, tubs and washing machines. Know how to make questionable water safe to drink. Have an emergency method and safe location for cooking, such as a camp stove, bottle gas, or wood stove.

A detailed check list of emergency supplies is available from your county extension office or the Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108. Ask for HO-9, Part 2, "Family Plans for Severe Weather Emergencies."

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November 13, 1978

Immediate release

AREA CATTLE FEEDERS TO
HEAR UNIVERSITY REPORT

The 1978 Minnesota Cattle Feeders' Report will be given by University of
Minnesota staff at _____ in _____ on _____.
(location) (town) (date)

Topics to be discussed include MGA, Monensin and Synovex H combinations for
feedlot heifers; corn silage--corn grain feeding programs; nitrogen-treated corn
silage; ensiled chicken manure as a nitrogen source; housing systems for yearling
steers and heifers; wheat, molasses and free-choice minerals; buying and selling
strategy, microbial silage additives and ruminal and intestinal buffers.

J.C. Meiske and R.D. Goodrich will report on Minnesota's beef cattle research.
Other speakers include R.E. Jacobs, extension husbandman; agricultural economists
Paul Hasbargen and Kenneth Egertson; and area experiment station personnel.

All meetings are open to interested persons regardless of race, creed, color,
sex or national origin.

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1. Northwest Experiment Station, Crookston, December 6
 2. West Central Experiment Station, Morris, December 7
 3. Experiment Station, Lamberton, December 8
 4. Southern Experiment Station, Waseca, December 12
 5. 4-H Building, Fairgrounds, Rochester, December 13

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ALFALFA TOPDRESSING BASED
ON SOIL TESTS, TYPES

Topdressing established alfalfa stands could increase yields and profits, depending on the type of soil and results of a soil test, a University of Minnesota extension specialist says.

Curt Overdahl, soils specialist, explains that sandy loam soils especially need fertilization. "Rather consistently, alfalfa stands are reduced to only quack grass after about two years if no potash is used," he says. "Lime, sulfur, boron and phosphate, in about that order, are also important."

When soil tests show a low potassium content, potash fertilizer rates must be extremely high, Overdahl says. It should be applied as soon as possible, and then each year, probably just after the first cutting.

University tests show that topdressing an acre of alfalfa with 120 lb. of potash on a sandy loam will increase average yield by three tons per acre. (Yield averaged 1.6 tons with no potash, 4.6 tons with 120 lb. of the nutrient.) Applying 240 lb. raised yield 3.5 tons (from 1.6 to 5.1 tons per acre). High rates of lime, phosphate, sulfur and boron were also applied to all these test plots.

"If soil test potassium is 300 lb. per acre, no yield increase will be gained by adding more," Overdahl says. "Where soil testing shows 50 lb. of phosphorus or more, phosphate application is not needed."

Southern Minnesota farmers have built up soil fertility to the point where often little fertilization is necessary for alfalfa, he points out. At the Waseca Experiment Station, high yield corn production is followed by alfalfa in the crop sequence. "Small fertilizer gains were observed on alfalfa the first two years, but after that it was needed," Overdahl says. Continue soil tests, he advises.

Where fields have been properly limed and alfalfa is well nodulated, nitrogen application seldom shows yield increases, he concludes.

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ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

LET THERE BE LIGHT
ON YOUR HOUSEPLANTS

Winter is the toughest season for plants growing indoors, says Deborah Brown, assistant extension horticulture specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Houseplants must get by with much less light than they receive in the spring and summer. And with cloudy days common, the light intensity is reduced as well as the number of daylight hours.

Artificial light to supplement or replace missing natural sunlight is one solution to your houseplant woes, Ms. Brown says. "They respond favorably to artificial light providing you use fluorescent tubes rather than incandescent bulbs," she says. "Incandescent bulbs give off too much heat in proportion to the light they shed."

You needn't buy expensive fixtures or special plant light tubes, she advises. "Ordinary cool white fluorescent tubes do a fine job. Mount them about one foot from the surface of the plant and keep the light burning for 12 to 14 hours a day," Ms. Brown says.

Fluorescent tubes are usually mounted horizontally, which can be clumsy to work into a decorating scheme. A vertical mount is just as effective and it gives more flexibility on where and how the tubes may be used, Ms. Brown says.

For directions on using artificial light for houseplants and plans for planters using fluorescent tubes mounted vertically, Ms. Brown recommends the U.S. Department of Agriculture publication "Indoor Gardening." Single copies are available free from the Office and Governmental and Public Affairs, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Ask for House and Garden Bulletin 220.

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FARM WINTERIZING
CUTS STORE LOSSES

Blizzard-proofing farm buildings and equipment could cut livestock deaths, dairy production losses and other damage winter storms often cause.

Minnesota averages at least one severe winter storm each year, often in November or March. The 1975 blizzard cost state farmers more than \$19 million. University of Minnesota extension conservationist Clifton Halsey says poor shelters often result in the major loss--livestock exposure and frostbite.

"Livestock buildings should be designed to withstand the heavy weight of snow and tremendous flexing by the wind," Halsey says. Ventilators should be installed to keep out the snow without suffocating the animals. Extension agents and agricultural engineers can give details on ventilators.

High board fences can provide shelter when a building is not available. Improved farmstead shelterbelts and farmstead plans can also prevent much of the loss, Halsey says.

"Most shelterbelts are too narrow and too drafty near the ground to be much good in a real blizzard," he says. The result is bare fields and 10-foot snowdrifts on the farmyard.

"There should be at least a hundred feet of open space between the trees and buildings for the snow to stop in," Halsey says. The bulletin "Planting Trees for Farmstead Shelter" (B196) is available at county extension offices.

Standby electrical generators can be a good investment, he says. The generator, its power source, and all hook-up outlets and switches should be installed in well-ventilated snow-free shelters. Standby systems should be tested monthly.

"Blizzard-proofing costs money," Halsey says. "But like any other insurance, it will take some of the risk out of gambling with winter storms."

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ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

FIRST-TIME DECORATORS:
WHERE WILL THE DOLLARS
SPENT DO THE MOST GOOD?

When it comes to decorating a home or apartment, most of us have more wants than we have dollars to fill them. Don't despair, says Linda Reece, extension interior design-furnishings specialist at the University of Minnesota. A little planning can turn haphazard buying into decorating with a plan.

There are several approaches to decorating, she says. A person taking the "long view" may buy only furnishings that will last a lifetime and then become heirlooms. A decorator in this mode may sacrifice some basic comforts in order to invest in highest quality items.

The opposite approach opts for the quick effect. Ms. Reece says decorators of this type want a home that looks furnished and comfortable from the beginning. They may spread their funds over a house full of lower quality furniture, making replacements at a future, more prosperous time.

An alternative to these approaches may be the most logical one for most consumers, according to Ms. Reece. Such a "middle course" concentrates on putting the greatest proportion of money into items that get the hardest wear--sofas, lounge chairs, chests of drawers, mattresses, carpeting. Accessory pieces such as small tables and chairs and headboards can be of lower quality.

Which ever approach you take, Ms. Reece suggests analyzing your family's tastes and life style before making major decorating decisions. Ask yourself:

-more-

add 1--first-time decorators:

- * Are you permanently settled or are you apt to move often?
- * Does the size of your family and the ages of its members demand easy-to-care-for furniture, perhaps with resistant finishes?
- * How do you entertain and how often?
- * What forms of recreation must be considered? Do you need a game table and chairs? Storage for sports equipment? Good places for reading, studying or listening to music?
- * What furniture do you own now? Will you keep it or replace it?
- * How much can you spend? What are your most practical needs and what leads your "wish list?"

Ms. Reece suggests that when you have answered these questions, you will have a good idea of what you need, like and can afford for your unique situation. Keep that picture in mind when buying any home furnishings.

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NORTH CENTRAL LEADERS' FORUM
MINNESOTA DELEGATES
Nov. 9-12, 1978 Osage Beach, Mo.

EAST CENTRAL - Wright County

1. Lee Raeth - Wright County Extension Agent, Courthouse, Buffalo 55313
2. Mrs. Tim Youngren - Rural Route #1, Waverly 55390
3. Mrs. Ron (Kay) Uter - Rural Route #1, Waverly 55390

SOUTHEAST - Freeborn County

1. Dan Heins - Freeborn County Extension Agent, 200 Post Office Building,
Albert Lea 56007
2. David Lyle - Rural Route 1, Box 20, Oakland 56076
3. Lu Lyle - Rural Route 1, Box 20, Oakland 56076

SOUTH CENTRAL - Le Sueur County

1. Arlos Krueger - Le Sueur County Extension Agent, Courthouse, LeCenter 56057
2. Stanley Chromy, Jr. - 823 First Avenue S.E., New Prague 56071
3. Mrs. Stanley Chromy, Jr. - 823 First Ave. S.E., New Prague 56071

SOUTHWEST - Nobles County/Chippewa County

1. Darwin Anderson - Nobles County Extension Agent, P.O. Box 432, Worthington
56187
2. Mrs. Darrell Ommen - c/o Nobles Co. Office
3. Mrs. Harland Boettcher - Route #3, Box 252, Montevideo 56265

WEST CENTRAL - Clay County/Becker County

1. Sharon Skarie - Clay County Extension Agent, Courthouse, Moorhead 56560
2. Mrs. Robert (Lynelle) Boone - Box 120, Route 2, Glyndon 56547
(Clay-volunteer) (218) 498-2796
3. Mrs. Harold (Ardella) Triebanbach - Rt. 2, Box 71, Detroit Lakes 56501
(Becker-volunteer)

NORTHWEST - Hubbard County

1. John Eix - Hubbard County Extension Director, Courthouse, Park Rapids 56470
2. Mary Allen - 419 Washington Avenue, Park Rapids 56470
3. Audry Harsha - Route #3, Park Rapids 56470
4. Arvilla Wittner - Cass Lake 56633

NORTHEAST - Carlton County

1. Burton Laine - Carlton County Extension Agent, Courthouse, Carlton 55718
2. Mrs. Marline Willie - Box 6, Sawyer 55780 - (218) 879-5006
3. Mrs. Mary Lee - 80 E. Palkie Rd., Esko 55733 - (218) 879-4744

RETURNING DELEGATE: Mrs. Lynnette Henderson, Route 1, Box 601A, Ottertail 56571
(218) 631-2555

STATE STAFF MEMBER: Faye Caskey, Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development

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

Immediate release

DON'T MISS OUT ON
WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY

The nearly 8,000 4-H photography enthusiasts in Minnesota need not put their cameras away when the mercury dips and the snow flies. Winter brings an entirely new world just waiting to be captured on film.

The crystal-clear ice coverings on twigs and leaves could provide that prize-winning photo you want for the fair next summer. Photographing snow-laden trees or frost-tipped pasture grasses--as well as capturing your friends on skis or snowmobiles, can only be done during the cold months ahead.

Low temperatures call for special treatment of your camera and film, says Dave Hansen, University of Minnesota extension photographer. Carry your camera inside your jacket, so that body heat will keep it warm while not in use. "A warm camera works better, and it will not fog up when you return indoors," Hansen points out.

Film becomes brittle when it gets cold. "Advance your film and rewind it slowly so it doesn't break," Hansen says. Slow rewinding will also protect against static marks, which appear on film more readily in the low humidity of winter.

If the camera does get cold and fogs up, Hansen advises to "just let it sit. Don't try to wipe off the moisture. It will dry in a couple of hours."

Most cameras require batteries, sometimes for both meter and shutter operation. Durable alkaline batteries work the best, but they too must be kept warm. Carry a spare or two in an inside pocket during winter shooting.

Fresh, white snow reflects a great amount of light. "Be aware that your meter may be thrown off by this brightness, causing underexposure of your subject," Hansen says. "Check the data sheet that comes with your film for correct snow exposures."

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November 13, 1978

Immediate release

DISTRICT 4-H LEADERS
TRAIN IN MISSOURI

Experienced 4-H leaders learned how to recruit and train other leaders during a three-day forum in Osage Beach, Mo., Nov. 9-12.

Representing the _____ district of Minnesota were _____
(name and town)
and _____. They were accompanied by _____,
(agent)
_____.
(title)

Twenty-four Minnesota delegates joined about 225 leaders from 12 states at the North Central 4-H Volunteer Leader's Forum. "They were trained in the team style of leadership development," _____ said. "They
(county director or agent)
received advice on how to recruit club leaders, orient them to 4-H leadership, and recognize them for their accomplishments. They also exchanged many worthwhile ideas and tips with the other delegates."

Speakers included staff members of the National 4-H Council and state staff. Minnesota's speaker was Faye Caskey, who talked on "Our Team, Belonging and Knowing."

Travel expenses and meeting costs were paid through a contribution from the J. C. Penny Company.

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Immediate release

THREE WAYS TO
OVERWINTER MUMS

To be reasonably certain of mums surviving over the winter, use one of the following methods:

1. Dig plants in the fall; plant them in pots, flats or similar containers. Keep them in a cold cellar over winter at a temperature of 33° to 38° F. Occasional watering is the only care needed.
2. Dig plants in the fall and plant them in a cold frame in a protected location. After freezing weather (November), mulch heavily with leaves, hay, or straw; then cover frame with sash, boards, or plastic film, and cover all with 6 or more inches of mulch.
3. In late fall, remove some rooted suckers from around the base of the plant. Put them in small pots and carry them through the winter as house plants. Pinch off tips when shoots are 6 inches long. Instead of pinching, you may wish to take 3-inch cuttings when the shoots are 6 or more inches long.

Although no cultivars are consistently hardy under Minnesota winter conditions, parts of plants frequently survive the winter. Divide such overwintered plants if four or more growing points are present.

If the entire clump survives the winter, it is preferable to divide it into small clumps with 2 or 3 growing points.

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CA, Hort

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Immediate release

FOREIGN RELATIONS
AFFECT AG EXPORTS

The U. S. could expand its agricultural exports by maintaining good relations with the Soviet Union and China, opening trade with Cuba, and aiding economic growth in less developed countries, a University of Minnesota official says.

"The potential for increasing exports to the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China remains high," LaVern Freeh says, "as long as we're able to walk the fine line of maintaining good relations with each of them without alienating either of them in the process."

Freeh is assistant dean of the Institute of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics. He says that since the U. S. imposed an embargo on Cuban trade 16 years ago, that country's foreign trade has quadrupled. "USDA officials believe we could rather quickly gain at least one-third of Cuba's total agricultural imports--or about \$260 million annually--if and when trade is resumed," he explains.

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November 20, 1978

Immediate release

TWO NEW MUMS
INTRODUCED

Two new chrysanthemums were introduced for the 1979 gardening season from the University of Minnesota's Department of Horticultural Science and Landscape Architecture.

MINNQUEEN is a vigorous variety with three-inch flat, decorative, rose-pink blossoms atop cushion habit plants. The uniform plants average one foot high and two feet wide with willowy stems. Flowering usually starts in mid-September.

ROYAL KNIGHT produces 3½-inch velvety maroon-purple or burgundy colored, reflexed (bent backward) flowers with a silvery underside on upright plants. Flowers have shown above average frost resistance. The fairly uniform plants average 12-15 inches across and 20 inches high. Stiff stems bear dark green foliage. Flowering usually starts by mid-September.

Both selections have shown disease tolerance in plant disease nursery tests and isolation. Culture of roots from select plants were free of Verticillium.

Both selections have been raised on a trial basis in branch station plots for at least two years.

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Immediate release

DAIRY DAYS SET AT
FOUR LOCATIONS

Area dairy day programs sponsored by the University of Minnesota are scheduled for four state locations in early December.

Programs at Hastings, Hutchinson and St. Cloud will emphasize herd health. Guest speakers will include Dr. Tom Herdt, a veterinarian from Michigan State University who will discuss vaccination programs; Dr. Don Johnson, University of Minnesota veterinarian, who will talk on herd health problems associated with animal housing; and University of Minnesota dairy scientists Mike Hutjens or Don Otterby who will discuss dry cow management plus nutrition and fresh cow considerations.

The dairy days are scheduled for Hastings on Dec. 5, Hutchinson on Dec. 6, and St. Cloud on Dec. 7. The Winona dairy day, scheduled for Dec. 1, will feature manure handling systems and concerns.

Check with your local county extension agent regarding the exact location, starting time, meals and other activities. A 44-page research report will be available for everyone attending.

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The meetings are open to interested persons regardless of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, or handicap.

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FERTILIZER PRICE
OUTLOOK MIXED

Phosphate and potash prices may increase next spring along with inflation and rail rates, but nitrogen prices may drop as much as 10 percent, a University of Minnesota soil scientist says.

Harvey Meredith points out that the import-export situation with plant nutrients makes the price outlook very uncertain. Large amounts of nitrogen are coming into the U. S., while phosphate can be exported.

Canadians, the major potash suppliers, have stabilized their price. Projecting potash costs is a matter of including inflation and rail cost increases. Meredith sees a 10 percent rise in next spring's price over last spring.

The phosphate outlook is less clear, but its cost could also increase 10 percent.

Massive ammonia imports have kept nitrogen prices soft, he explains. "If they stop suddenly, we will see the price firm up." Under present conditions, however, a 10 percent decrease is possible next spring over last spring.

Clear weather encouraged widespread application this fall, Meredith says. "We saw fertilizer inventories drawing down. Last fall, rainy weather kept farmers out of the fields."

Income from this year's bumper crop and a probable set-aside program will encourage farmers to fertilize for optimum yields next spring, he predicts.

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PARDON OUR MISTAKE--The arithmetic was incorrect on last week's "NUTRIENT CONTENT OF NEW FERTILIZERS COULD BE COSTLY" story (Nov. 13). The final figure in the paragraph that starts "If the fertilizer contains 7-2-2" should be \$31.00 per ton. The paragraph that starts "The next step" should read:

The next step is to figure value in dollars. N costs \$.105 ($$.15 \times .7 \text{ lb.} = $.105$), phosphate is \$.030 ($$.15 \times .2 \text{ lb.} = $.030$) and potash is \$.020 ($$.10 \times .2 \text{ lb.} = $.020$) for a total nutrient cost of \$.155 or 15½ cents per gallon. For the quart price, divide by 4 to get \$.039 or about 4 cents per quart.

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Immediate release

(Note: The University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station recently published "New Benefits from Research." The following news briefs were taken from this publication, which is available from the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.)

NEWS BRIEFS

Extraordinary Investment Yields: Few investments--private or public--yield returns as high as earnings from agricultural research. According to the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Experiment Station, the expected annual rates of return for 1978-1980 are 32 percent on corn research, 31 percent on soybean research and 17 percent on beef research investments. This compares with a five percent return on municipal bonds, eight percent on long-term savings and nine percent on utility bonds in 1977.

* * * *

Nearly a Century Old: One hundred years ago, Minnesotans were not sure how to grow and sell their crops and livestock. In 1885, the state legislature and the University of Minnesota Board of Regents created the Agricultural Experiment Station. Since then, procedures have been scientifically developed and tested through the Experiment Station to provide a basic system for producing and marketing most commodities. New, high-yielding, disease-resistant plants and animals have replaced inferior types. Conservation practices preserve soil and water for future generations.

-more-

add 1--Experiment Station

Spreading this knowledge through Experiment Station publications and meetings, as well as the Agricultural Extension Service, has greatly increased productivity. Today, one acre of Minnesota farmland produces $4\frac{1}{2}$ times what it did in 1890. Fifty years ago, Minnesota farmers fed about 2.3 million people--less than the state's population. Now they feed 14 million people-- $3\frac{1}{2}$ times the state's population.

* * * *

Social Changes: Research results of the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Experiment Station have contributed to far-reaching social changes. The physical drudgery of farming has been greatly reduced. Fifty years ago, one Minnesota farm worker produced food for six people. Today, he or she feeds 100 people. Researchers are seeking ways to improve personal, home and community life. Applied research has already led to a better understanding of how rural communities can organize themselves to improve their human services.

* * * *

What About the Future?: Over the next 20 years, world population may grow by 50 percent. Increased buying power will expand foreign demand for Minnesota's farm-produced commodities. If this demand can be met through greater production, new jobs and more economic activity will be created.

There are signs that the rate of gain in agricultural productivity is lessening. Gains at the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Experiment Station in the last two decades took higher research investments than earlier research. The annual return is still much greater than on other investments, however, and much remains unknown about the genetics and makeup of agricultural plants and animals.

* * * *

-more-

add 2--Experiment Station

New Crop Varieties: Two soybean varieties were released by the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station in 1978. Hodgson 78 is resistant to phytophthora. McCall has a higher yield for its maturity class. These varieties are results of the type of research that produced Hodgson soybeans, introduced in 1974. That variety yielded 15 percent more than the one it replaced. Hodgson and three other new varieties yield 4 million bushels more than could have been produced by the older varieties, and in 1977 increased total Minnesota farm income by \$20 million.

Morex barley, released by the Experiment Station in 1978, yields about 8 bushels more per acre than Larker. Morex resists lodging, stem rust and loose smut and is moderately resistant to spot blotch. It also produces 2-3 percent more extract and has satisfactory brewing traits.

* * * *

Wild Rice: Netum wild rice, released by the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station in 1978, is the station's first wild rice variety. Netum matures two weeks earlier than current varieties. It is shatter resistant and will help in developing an economical paddy rice for northern Minnesota production.

* * * *

Inbred Lines: The seed corn industry continues to use inbred lines developed by the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station. The hybrids coming from those lines account for about 20 percent of the U. S. corn acreage.

* * * *

-more-

add 3--Experiment Station

Adzuki Bean Research: A tiny red bean called adzuki is being field tested by the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station. The beans, when mashed and sweetened, provide an Oriental dessert ingredient. A new, earlier-maturing variety has been developed by crossing two Japanese varieties.

Some tricky production problems are now under study. Field trials show that yields range from 1,800 to 2,000 pounds per acre. The new specialty crop could be grown for the export market.

* * * *

Control the Corn Borer: Certain wasps and flies could become enemies of the European corn borer. University of Minnesota Experiment Station researchers are checking this biological control method. They are also developing field and sweet corn varieties resistant to the borer. The pest cost farmers an estimated \$32 million in damage in 1977.

* * * *

Minimum Tillage: University of Minnesota Experiment Station researchers have looked at the direct savings from using minimum tillage rather than conventional plowing. Minimum tillage on 600 acres of corn results in slightly more than a 50 percent reduction in energy usage, using several different measurements. It can save \$10 per corn acre, or if applied to Minnesota's seven million acres of corn, it would save \$70 million.

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November 20, 1978

ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

CURIO CABINETS:
A WAY TO SHOW OFF

Whether you collect rare books, Ming dynasty vases or beer cans, a curio cabinet may be just what you need to display your collectibles.

Linda Reece, extension interior design-furnishings specialist at the University of Minnesota, says many furniture manufacturers are featuring curio cabinets, shelves and collector coffee tables in a variety of styles.

The traditional shape for such a cabinet is tall and thin, Ms. Reece says. These take up less space, but when lit from the inside they become a dramatic focal point to the room. Corner curios take advantage of otherwise unused space.

Contemporary styles include simple, open cubes. Other materials include brass and glass, shiny chrome and traditional wood and lacquer. Prices range from the budget category for ready-to-assemble units to breath-taking for some of the top quality manufactured cabinets.

* * * *

TEA CARTS:
VERSATILE WORKHORSES

In this era of scaled-down space and multi-purpose furnishings, tea carts are gaining fans, says Linda Reece, extension interior design-furnishings specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Their versatility makes them popular, she says. Ideal for a portable TV stand, they also work as mobile plant stands. They can be moved from window to window or placed as a pleasing accent in a hard-to-decorate nook.

Kitchen utensils, recipe books or ingredients can be pulled around the kitchen to be in easy reach. Or you can load the cart with games and toys and let it follow the kids from playroom to patio and back again. Magazines and books can also follow you around when stored on one of these little wheeled carts.

Ms. Reece says tea carts were originally designed to carry dishes and food and to make buffet serving easier. It's their many additional uses, however, that make them so practical.

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4-H NEWS

Immediate release

County Extension Agents--This news release could be used now, or it could be given to a reporter who may want to interview the 4-H members from your county after they return from their trip. Since this is an annual event, even counties with no representatives this year may want to publish this release. Just remove the second paragraph.

4-H'ERS EXPERIENCE ART
IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

About 25 Minnesota 4-H members will sample the music, drama, dance, visual arts and mime of Washington, D.C. during the National Holiday Workshop for the Humanities Dec. 27-Jan. 1.

Attending from _____ County are _____.
(names and towns)

"The proper groundwork will be laid before each new experience,"
_____ says. "For example, 4-H members will take part in a ballet
(agent)
workshop before attending The Nutcracker Suite by the American Ballet Theatre. A singer will talk to them about gospel music before they visit Pentecostal Church."

Other events include a tour of the new wing of the National Gallery, a play at Ford Theatre, and visits to the Museum of African Art and the Kennedy Center. A visit with Vice President Walter Mondale may be arranged. There will also be time for shopping and touring of historic Washington sites.

-more-

add 1--4-H'ers experience art

<u>Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Town</u>
Kent Reed	Anoka	Cedar, MN 55011
Jeanne Lynch	Carlton	Cromwell, MN 55726
Mary Carr	Clay	Baker, MN 56513
Theresa Raway	Dakota	Hastings, MN 55033
Beth Schimek	Faribault	Easton, MN 56025
Lisa Stuhr	Hennepin	New Hope, MN 55428
Julie Strodtman	Isanti	Bethel, MN 55055
Helen Baird	Itasca	Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Diane Norberg	Itasca	Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Kristie Willert	Lincoln	Lake Benton, MN 56149
Lisa Anderson	Lyon	Balaton, MN 56115
Michelle R. Dereschuk	Ramsey	1978 Ashland Ave., Apt. 103 St. Paul, MN 55104
Joseph Hallgren	Ramsey	2160 Eleanor St. Paul, MN 55116
Joe Lynch	Ramsey	1769 Pinehurst St. Paul, MN 55116
Marie Truso	Ramsey	1796 E. Hawthorne St. Paul, MN 55119
Mary Davison	So. St. Louis	Floodwood, MN 55736
Jean Sramek	So. St. Louis	Meadowlands, MN 55765
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Blonigen	Stearns	Freeport, MN 56331
Henry Gruber	Stearns	Paynesville, MN 56362
Tom Jennissen	Stearns	Sauk Centre, MN 56378
Anita Johansson	Stearns	Brooten, MN 56316
Donald Lieser	Stearns	Belgrade, MN 56312
Eileen Peters	Stearns	Brooten, Mn 56316
Marie Foxman	Winona	Utica, MN 55979
Mary Sue Speltz	Winona	Utica, Mn 55979
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Immediate release

NIK
7-11-78

(Note: Last week we sent several news briefs taken from the Agricultural Experiment Station's "New Benefits from Research." Here are more such stories. These are geared to your specialized audiences. The publication is available from the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN, 55108)

NEWS BRIEFS. . . .

Detecting Turkey Disease: New tests have been developed by the University of Minnesota Experiment Station for early detection of bluecomb disease. This was once the most serious problem for the state's turkey industry. Minnesota was free of the disease for the first time in 1977 because of this research. The defeat of bluecomb saves Minnesota's turkey growers a total of \$1 million per year.

* * * *

Sheep Milk Replacers: Ewe milk replacers enable Minnesota sheep producers to save 60,000 lambs (worth \$2 million) that would otherwise starve. Credit for this goes to the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station for its research. In another study, sunflower hulls and soybean straw fortified with liquid protein and fed to ewes reduced feed costs 20 percent without reducing lamb production.

* * * *

Hardier Blueberries: Fruit growers will find a blueberry variety especially adapted to Minnesota winters at nursery outlets in three-to-five years. University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station researchers developed a hybrid half-high blueberry which gives fruit at least as good as commercial high-bush varieties. Plant populations are now being increased. The new plant could lead to a new industry for northeastern and north central Minnesota.

-more-

465

add 1--in brief

Grain Projections: Corn surpluses will continue to grow, scientists at the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station predict. Livestock production in the state is estimated to grow more slowly than grain production, which leaves more to market and export. The surpluses are projected at 236 million bushels in 1980 and 273 million by 1985. The average for 1971-74 was 153 million bushels.

* * * *

Woodcock Habitat: Research at the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station clearly shows what the popular woodcock needs for survival. Private, state and federal agencies use this information for improving habitat and increasing woodcock populations. For example, the scientists have found that encouraging dense aspen growth increases earthworm populations. Woodcocks rely heavily on earthworms for food.

* * * *

Sodium for Deer, Moose: White-tailed deer cannot survive in northeastern Minnesota without feeding on plants in lakes and streams, researchers at the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station have found. They need the sodium in water plants for growth and reproduction. Moose also need the mineral. This knowledge sheds new light on management and preservation of these big game animals in Minnesota.

* * * *

Forestry Research: Foresters at the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station are studying ways to improve Minnesota's timber supply. They have found that containerized planting stock of red and jack pine provide greater flexibility for tree regeneration and lower production and planting costs. It may be possible to replace the sections of land now used for growing nursery stock with small greenhouses for growing containerized seedlings.

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TIME COULD BE RIGHT
FOR DAIRY EXPANSION

The prospect of favorable milk prices over the next 3-4 years make this a good time for above average managers to consider expanding their facilities, a University of Minnesota agricultural economist says.

Attractive beef prices will encourage many dairymen to cull their herds, or even quit dairying, says Ken Thomas, extension economist. "This will tend to keep milk production down and milk prices up over the period," he explains. "As a result, we should have good, stable profits to ease the repayment problems that often come with expansion."

A dairyman with a herd production average at 14,000 lb. or more would be considered a good manager, Thomas says. "How good you should be will depend on the amount of change involved, however," he adds. "The larger the change in herd size and the greater the change in type of facilities, the higher the quality of management required to make it work."

Demand should also remain favorable, Thomas says. The price of dairy products to the consumer "has edged up along the way, but it hasn't gone up as rapidly as beef and pork. Dairy products are still a good buy."

Next year's sales will probably be even higher than the 119 billion pounds of milk sold in 1978, while production will probably stay about the same. Farm prices of all milk will likely average 6-10 percent higher than in 1978, with the most gains made in the first half of 1979.

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Immediate release

UM SILAGE EXPERTS
TO GIVE PROGRAM

A group of silage experts from the University of Minnesota will give a program at _____ on _____ as part of an 11-city tour of the state in January and March.
town date

Neal Martin, extension agronomist, will discuss silage preservatives, reviewing how they work and their value. Mike Hutjens, extension dairyman, will talk about feeding silage to dairy cattle. His topics include blended rations, sodium-bicarb, herd health and NPN addition to corn silage.

Ray Arthaud, extension animal scientist, will answer questions on beef feeding. Subjects include winter silage feeding, urea, ammonia, self-feeding, forage testing silage and monensin. Fred Benson, extension economist, will look at the economics of silage storage systems. Benson and Martin will also go over the "Dollars and Sense" of silage selection--silage crops, cultural practices, management, forage quality and harvesting methods.

A panel made up of a local producer, agribusiness person and educator will answer questions and make comments. For more information, contact your county extension agent.

The meeting is open to interested persons regardless of race, creed, color or national origin.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 9	Glenwood
January 10	Buffalo Lake
January 11	St. James
January 12	Le Center
January 15	Little Falls
March 7	Nebish
March 8	Barnum
March 12	Eagle Bend
March 14	Wadena
March 15	Fergus Falls
March 16	Richmond

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Immediate release

WORKSHOP ON MANAGING
YOUR DAIRY FUTURE
SET FOR ST. CLOUD

"Managing Your Dairy Future" is a workshop for dairy farmers who are planning expansion, replacing obsolete and inefficient facilities or interested in improving the profit potential.

The four-part workshop is scheduled for St. Cloud on Jan. 30, Feb. 6, Feb. 7 and Feb. 13, 1978. The Feb. 6 session is intended primarily for stall-barn operators, while the Feb. 7 session will emphasize free-stall and milking parlor operations.

Enrollment is limited to 60 participants, allocated by location (county in which the farm is located). Advance registration is required.

Registration fees are \$35 per farm operator for three sessions or \$40 per farm operator for four sessions. Each additional farm member participating will be charged \$15 for three days or \$20 for four days.

The meeting is sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service. Application forms are available from local county extension offices or the Office of Special Programs, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN, 55108. Tel. (612) 373-0725.

The workshop is open to interested persons regardless of race, creed, color, sex, national origin or handicap.

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Immediate release

INTERNATIONAL AG PROGRAMS
HELP MINNESOTA FARMERS

Developing countries are important cash outlets for U.S. and Minnesota farm products.

"In recent years developing countries have purchased almost 40 percent of our agricultural exports," says LaVern Freeh, director of international programs at the University of Minnesota.

As countries develop they provide better markets for agricultural commodities and manufactured goods from the U.S. "Helping countries develop is very much in our economic self-interest," he emphasizes.

Total agricultural sales abroad in 1977 were \$23.7 billion. Imports were \$13.4 billion, leaving a positive trade balance of over \$10 billion.

Aside from international trade, there are other reasons why Land Grant universities should cooperate with other countries. Credit for many agricultural achievements in the U.S. belongs to scientists in other countries who have made key discoveries and shared them with us.

Higher yielding, pest resistant crops have been developed for American farmers by importing germplasm from other countries. In addition, the livestock industry of the U.S. is based largely on early imported animals.

Involvement of U.S. universities and agricultural colleges in international programs is a logical complement to domestic teaching, research and extension work, says Freeh. "If we expand these efforts we'll be helping Minnesota farmers and consumers as well as the developing countries we work with," Freeh says.

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Immediate release

IT'S TIME TO ESTIMATE
YOUR INCOME TAX

With crops harvested and livestock sold, now is the time to estimate income taxes before the close of the year's business, says Earl Fuller, extension farm management economist at the University of Minnesota.

"If you won't have enough income reportable to use all of your personal deductions, exemptions and income credits, then by all means try to delay expenses or speed up sales," Fuller says. "If you don't report enough income to use these exemptions you will lose them forever. There is no way of getting them back."

After having enough income for deductions, the farmer should stay in a situation of paying less income tax this year than what he expects to pay next year.

"Only if this year's income is less than 80 percent of what you think next year's will be should you think seriously of doing any amount of shifting income into this year," Fuller says. "Shifting will hurt your cash flow because you will have more taxes this year. A dollar's worth of taxes deferred is really a cheaper dollar due to inflation. By helping your cash flow, you probably will be saving on interest costs."

If income does turn out to be unusually high next year, the farmer has the income averaging option, Fuller adds.

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CA, IA

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

Immediate release

RAPID DEPRECIATION
ARITHMETIC PAYS

About one-half of Minnesota farmers use the additional 20 percent first year depreciation option in high income years, while only 5-10 percent use balance and sum of the year's digit methods, an economist says.

"There is more arithmetic involved with rapid depreciation procedures," says Earl Fuller, extension economist in farm management at the University of Minnesota. "But this is arithmetic that pays. With inflation and cash flow reasons for taking tax savings, a person should use rapid depreciation during normal or high income years."

If income is low, but expected to get better in future years, straight line depreciation is best, Fuller adds.

"I'm not talking about small savings when I advise these methods," he says. "The present value of these savings is in the area of \$200 to \$400 per \$10,000 asset over a seven-year life."

Rapid depreciation procedures are outlined in FM 205, "Tax Management for Minnesota Farmers," which is available from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn., 55108.

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

ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

SALT FROM ROADS
HURTS TREES, SHRUBS

The salt that makes winter driving less hazardous is causing widespread damage to trees and shrubs in Minnesota, according to Patrick Weicherding, assistant extension forester at the University of Minnesota.

He says the damage from salt spray is most evident along heavily traveled highways, usually within 60 feet of the road. In metropolitan areas where traffic speeds are slower, the greatest threat is from the build-up of soil salt and the absorption of salt through plant roots.

The problem is serious, Weicherding says, because the losses in growth and in aesthetic qualities to the trees mean increased maintenance costs for pruning, fertilizing and special care. Few salt-tolerant species are available and if only those species are used, the chances are greater that a single disease or insect, might destroy a large percentage of trees.

The symptoms of salt spray damage include bud death and twig dieback on deciduous trees and shrubs, usually most evident in the spring. Evergreens show signs of needle browning and twig dieback occurring on the side facing the road. This is usually evident in late February or early March, becoming more extensive through spring and summer.

Damage from salt-laden soil is evident late in the summer although, in some cases, the injury may not appear for years. The symptoms include a blue-green cast to the foliage, marginal leaf burn, reduction in leaf, flower and fruit size, and premature fall coloration and loss of leaves.

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There are some things that property owners can do, Weicherding says. In metropolitan areas, improving the drainage of poorly drained soils will minimize damage. Adding organic matter, activated charcoal or gypsum and thoroughly leaching the soil or washing the plant parts in early spring will help. However, these methods are often time consuming and costly.

Susceptible plants in areas where salt damage is likely to occur can be protected by barriers of plastic, burlap, plywood or window screen placed on or in front of the plants.

Weicherding also encourages planting shade and ornamental trees away from the spray zone and areas where salty snow will be deposited. Although no plant is immune to salt injury, some of the common species that are most tolerant of both spray and soil salt are Russian Olive, White Ash, Ginko, Honeylocust, Jack Pine, Poplar and White Poplar.

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St. Paul, MN 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
November 27, 1978

ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

APPLIANCE GIFTS
SHOULD BE ON TARGET

Portable appliances are popular Christmas gifts, but if Santa doesn't consider the household's needs first, the appliance may gather dust and add to a wasteful accumulation.

This warning comes from Wanda Olson, extension household equipment specialist at the University of Minnesota. She suspects that many well-intentioned holiday gift givers miss the mark on small appliances.

"It's easy to be swayed by advertisements showing how versatile and convenient a small appliance can be," she says. "But what is ideal for one family's lifestyle or needs may not fit for another."

She suggests the appliance buyer try to match the household with the appliance. "Before buying, ask yourself if it will make household routines easier, perhaps because of changes in family roles or activities. Maybe the family's chief cook now has an additional work load or works outside the home and needs appliances which save meal preparation time or allow others in the family to prepare meals. A family with active teenagers might have another type of need--something to accommodate varied meal schedules and 'quickie' meals by novice chefs."

Consider also where the appliance will be used and how much upkeep it will need, Mrs. Olson advises. The recipient's skill level or adventuresomeness is one other factor. A food processor, for example, can be a costly investment that an avid chef or person interested in food preservation might use regularly. For others, however, it could be used infrequently.

Some checkpoints when buying an appliance include:

* Will it give an improved or different food product than appliances the person already has?

-more-

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add 1--appliance gifts

* Is speed an important consideration? A hamburger maker, for example, is speedy for one burger but may not be faster than a frying pan atop the stove for four patties.

* Does it have the convenience and automatic features needed?

* Is it available in a suitable size?

* Will both the appliance and the work area around it be easy to clean?

* Is it durable and safe?

* Is space available for using and storing the appliance?

A final consideration, according to Mrs. Olson, is whether the appliance will be in addition to or in place of something the person already owns. "It comes down to a question of how much do we need and do we need everything we see?"

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University of Minnesota
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Tel. (612) 373-0710
December 4, 1978

Immediate release

DELAY FARM SALE
TO SAVE ON TAXES

Delaying the sale of your farm until January 1979 could mean a large tax saving, Paul Hasbargen, University of Minnesota extension economist, says.

The Revenue Act of 1978 removed capital gains from the list of items that were taxed at least 15 percent. The change becomes effective Jan. 1.

"Any farmland that has been owned for more than a few years will have appreciated enough to be subject to sizable capital gains tax," Hasbargen says.

If the gain in value of the land has been more than \$20,000, there will be an extra 15 percent tax on more than one-half of the gain--if the sale is completed in 1978. However, that tax will no longer be levied after Jan. 1, 1979.

An alternative minimum tax of 10 percent may apply to the nontaxable portion of capital gains where itemized deductions are more than 60 percent of adjusted gross income. That tax will rarely be applied to farms, Hasbargen believes.

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University of Minnesota
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Tel. (612) 373-0710
December 4, 1978

Immediate Release

LEASING MACHINERY
SAVES TAX DOLLARS

If you are about to retire and still have farm machinery on a depreciation schedule, you could save tax dollars by leasing instead of selling the equipment, a farm management specialist says.

"This is especially important if you are selling to your children and they are to be taking over the business," says Earl Fuller, extension economist at the University of Minnesota.

Fuller points out the disadvantages of selling. "Offspring cannot take tax credit on second-hand machinery bought from their parents. A retiring farmer will probably have some settling-up to do with Uncle Sam in terms of investment credit recapture and possibly on income from the sale's gain."

Leasing allows the farmer to continue the depreciation schedule. It could also help the son get the credit he needs to put his business together, Fuller adds.

"If you set the lease up so that the son is totally responsible for repairs, maintenance, insurance and lease payments, then you will have enough evidence to show you are not a self-employed lessor for social security purposes," he concludes.

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December 4, 1978

Immediate release

NEW CROP VARIETIES
ADVISED FOR 1979

New soybean and barley varieties joined the recommended field crop variety list for 1979 released by the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station.

Dropped from the list were three soybean and two oat varieties, says Roy Thompson, extension agronomist.

Hodgson 78, which provides resistance to soybean phytophthora root rot, was added to the 1979 list. It is similar to Steele and Hodgson in maturity, but higher yielding than Steele, which was dropped.

McCall, another new recommended soybean, has a higher yield than most varieties in the early maturity class. Ada and Wells were removed from the list.

"It appears that Lyon oats will replace the Chief acreage," Thompson says, "because of Lyon's increased yield and disease resistance. Chief rusted rather badly this year and was dropped."

Stout was also dropped from the recommended oat list. Noble is similar to Stout in maturity while yielding higher and resisting smut. "Stout remains, however, the best standing variety available," Thompson adds.

Larker barley was removed because of significant yield losses from spot blotch and lodging. Morex, released this year, was added due to improved spot blotch and lodging resistance and high malting quality.

-more-

add 1--new crop varieties

Gent winter wheat lost its recommendation. Lack of winter survival has cut into its yield potential, Thompson says.

Most of the varieties on the following recommended list are described more fully in last year's Varietal Trials of Field Crops, Misc. Report 24. An updated version will be available from county extension offices after Jan. 1.

The recommended list of field crop varieties for 1979 is as follows:

<u>Barley:</u>	Manker, Morex Bonanza for Northwestern Minnesota
<u>Oats:</u>	Lodi, Lyon, and Noble
<u>Rye:</u>	Puma and Rymin
<u>Wheat:</u>	Hard Red Spring: Angus, Era, Kitt, Olaf, and Wared Durum: Cando, Crosby, Rugby, and Ward Winter: Minter and Winoka
<u>Millet:</u>	White Proso: Dawn and Minco Red Proso: Cerise and Turghai Foxtail: Empire
<u>Flax:</u>	Culbert, Dufferin, Linott, and Norstar
<u>Soybeans:</u>	Altona, Clay, Corsoy, Evans, Harcor, Hodgson, Hodgson 78, McCall, Swift, and Wilkin
<u>Dry Beans:</u>	Dark Red Kidney: Montcalm Great Northern: Emerson Navy: Seafarer, Snow-Bunting, Snow-Flake, and Up-Land Pinto: Ul 114 Small White: Aurora Black Turtle Soup: T-39
<u>Dry Peas:</u>	Century
<u>Buckwheat:</u>	Mancan
<u>Annual Canarygrass:</u>	Alden

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December 4, 1978

NEW TAX BULLETIN AIDS
FARM BUYERS, SELLERS

The tax situation for buying and selling a farm is very complex. A bulletin available from the county extension office titled "Taxmanship in Buying or Selling a Farm," could be helpful.

"Just phone or stop in to get a copy" _____,
county extension director says. "It has just been revised. It points out when there is or is not capital gains tax due on the house, for instance."

North Central Regional Bulletin #43 also tells what is involved in dividing a purchase price between depreciable assets, the home, and non-depreciable assets. It also discusses what is eligible for investment credit.

For sellers it goes over the pros and cons of land contracts and tax implications.

"This is the kind of situation where you may need a consultant as well,"
_____ adds. "This bulletin will help you understand the basics. With that knowledge, you can make sure consultants are doing the very best job possible for you."

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December 4, 1978

Immediate release

IN BRIEF

Combinations Improve Cattle Returns: Heifers given Rumensin and Synovex-H in combination gain weight faster and more efficiently, providing more favorable returns per head than when only one product is used. University of Minnesota researchers H. F. Windels, R. D. Goodrich and J. C. Meiske gave heifers all combinations of Rumensin, Synovex-H and MGA, and ranked the performance of each. Average daily gain for the Rumensin-Synovex heifers was 3.05 lb., and amount of feed per 100 lb. of gain was 605 lb. Heifers given all three products actually gained better, but the Food and Drug Administration has not yet approved mixing MGA and Rumensin. Rumensin-Synovex-H was the best double combination.

* * * *

Collecting Wild Oats: It's hard to imagine finding a respectable use for wild oats. Most farmers would agree with the scientist at the University of Minnesota who calls it "one of the most common and obnoxious weeds." That same scientist, and several others, are collecting wild oats in hopes of improving future oat production!

For instance, some wild oats contain more protein than the field crop species. Protein levels of dehulled seeds as high as 26 percent have been found in the wild. Through cross-breeding, these higher levels could be transferred to "tame" oats. The wild seeds, collected from 2,200 sites throughout the western and north central states, also contain disease resistance that could some day be valuable.

* * * *

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add 1--in brief

Interseeding Grass Pastures: When planning machinery purchases for next year, owners of grass pastures may want to consider buying equipment that would interseed legumes with that grass. University of Minnesota extension agronomist Neal Martin says interseeding improves the performance of livestock grazing those pastures. It also saves time and money when compared to plowing and broadcast tillage methods of introducing alfalfa or clover into grass.

Along with the new equipment, one would need herbicides to suppress grass growth while the legume gets established. About 5-7 weeks of grazing time would be lost, compared to an entire season with broadcast tillage. A conventional method (plow, disk, spring tooth before seeding) cost \$93.27 per acre. An interseeding method using a machine that removes narrow strips of sod cost \$84.14.

* * * *

Annual Alfalfa: A research team at the University of Minnesota is developing an annual variety of alfalfa that could be used in rotations and set-asides to provide extra nitrogen for future crops.

The winter-hardy perennials we use in Minnesota become dormant in late summer or early fall. An annual, however, would continue to take nitrogen from the air and fix it in the soil until a killing frost. The researchers are working on a variety that would make 150 lb. of nitrogen per acre available to the following year's corn crop. If seeded with oats, the crop would provide one cutting of oatlage and two cuttings of alfalfa hay before the crown and roots were plowed in late October. The reseachers are Donald Barnes, Gary Heichel, and Carroll Vance, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

* * * *

-more-

add 2--in brief

Tough Weed Seeds: Researchers have demonstrated how tough it is to eradicate velvetleaf and wild mustard infestations. In one five-year study with velvetleaf, they found there were about 23 bushels of velvetleaf seed per acre at the beginning of the study. With the best control methods used (continuous fallow and two plowings), there were still about 1.5 bushels of velvetleaf seed per acre or 85 seeds per square foot after five years. Weeds not controlled by the cultural practices were hand pulled so no new velvetleaf seeds were produced.

A similar study with wild mustard produced the same general conclusions. The research was done by William E. Lueschen and Dennis D. Warnes, Minnesota Experiment Station researchers at Waseca and Morris, respectively, and Robert N. Andersen, a U. S. Department of Agriculture scientist stationed at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

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December 4, 1978

ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE,
CONSIDER FIRE EXTINGUISHER
AS HOLIDAY GIFT

A household fire extinguisher is an inexpensive holiday gift that could prove invaluable in putting out a common kitchen fire. Wanda Olson, extension household equipment specialist at the University of Minnesota, says many extinguishers sell for less than \$10 and those marked as "ABC dry chemical extinguishers" will fight the grease fires that constitute the majority of household fires.

Mrs. Olson says grease fires are most often associated with meal preparation. They can occur on top of the range or in an oven, but they should never be fought with water.

If fat is burning on top of a stove, cover the pan, she advises. In an oven, keeping the door closed may smother the flames. Baking soda will also put out a grease fire.

Mrs. Olson stresses, however, that grease fires spread quickly. Such a fire is likely to be larger than can be treated with baking soda by the time a person has it ready to apply.

An ABC dry chemical extinguisher is effective against grease and other types of fires. She recommends a 2½ pound extinguisher for kitchen use or a 5 pound one if it will be shared between the kitchen and garage.

Mount the extinguisher near the exit from the kitchen. Don't put it close to the stove or it could be surrounded by flames when you need it, and you wouldn't be able to get to it, she cautions.

When buying an extinguisher for yourself or as a gift, look for the Underwriter's Laboratory label. Read the instructions so you will know how the device operates before the need arises, and when used, recharge the extinguisher as necessary according to manufacturer's directions.

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St. Paul, MN 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
December 4, 1978

4-H NEWS

Immediate release

County Extension Agents: This is an outline for a news release on 4-H foods and nutrition leader training being held in early December. You may want to add comments from those who attended.

COUNTY 4-H LEADERS
REVIEW FOOD, NUTRITION

_____ County 4-H leaders discussed how to "build learning into doing" during a foods and nutrition leader training session at _____.
(location and date)

Attending the session were _____
(names and towns)

_____.

Foods and nutrition project leaders throughout Minnesota met at seven locations during December.

The training was guided by University of Minnesota extension specialists. They included Marilyn Olson, 4-H youth development specialist; nutritionists Mary Darling and Muriel Brink; and Isabel Wolf, foods and nutrition specialist.

The speakers and volunteer leaders talked about how legislation may affect foods and nutrition education. They also planned project meetings. Food exhibits, fund-raising, and consumer food label judging events were all discussed.

"We came up with new ideas for building learning into all of these tried and true teaching methods," _____ said. "The adult leaders from our county have a lot of personal food and nutrition experience to share with our 4-H youth."

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St. Paul, MN 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710

4-H NEWS

Immediate release

4-H SHARES THE
HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Spreading the Christmas spirit could start off your 4-H club's community pride program for the season, says _____, _____ County extension agent.

Many club members--and their audiences--enjoy the traditional caroling for senior citizens and shut-ins. It can also be fun to help "spruce up" your community by supplying a decorated Christmas tree at the local hospital or on the town square.

Winter is the time to plan more ambitious community projects that may be carried out during warmer seasons. Fund-raising to help finance those projects can also take place in the coming months.

This year's 4-H Congress trip winner for community beautification started her project by surveying community needs. Renee Gildersleeve found that residents in her area of Hubbard County needed a picnic area.

"I saw that many people used the river access and that garbage was collecting," she reports. "People also ate there, but in their cars."

The Guthrie Flying Eagles then decided to set up a picnic and camping spot. Their careful cooperation with state and county officials, and some hard work cleaning up the access area resulted in "a very popular area which is enjoyed by our local community as well as travelers," Renee says.

-more-

add 1--4-H shares the holiday spirit

Many clubs are concerned with conserving natural resources while improving their community. The Farmer's Friends in Le Sueur County collected waste glass and paper. A recycling center paid for the waste materials, and members used the money to plant flowers and erect a sign at the county museum.

The Pine County Royalton Royals started their conservation efforts by recycling trash they found on five acres of "wasteland." They also had a gravel pit dredged to form a pond for wildfowl. "Trees were planted and gradually bushes, flowers, berries, grains and shrubs were added," their report says. "Finally, picnic tables were made, and a shelter is under construction."

A project can be found that will fit any club's abilities and the needs of its community. Restoring a town hall with a little paint and elbow grease, picking up litter along roadsides, or adopting grandparents at the local nursing home are all ways of "Making the Best Better" in 4-H.

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December 11, 1978

Immediate release

WHEAT, BARLEY PAYMENTS
TAXABLE IN 1978 OR 1977

Farmers are required to include December payments for participation in the government set-aside program in their total 1978 taxable income, while earlier payments for crops grown in 1977 can be counted as 1977 income, an economist says.

Paul Hasbargen, University of Minnesota extension specialist, reports that checks based on 52 cents per bushel for wheat and 35 cents for barley should be received by farmers before Christmas. The producer was required to take part in an acreage set-aside program to be eligible for these payments.

The payments raise average prices received by farmers during the past five months to the "target prices" of \$3.40 for wheat and \$2.25 for barley. "A wheat producer with a normal yield of 30 bushels per acre who grew 100 acres of wheat in 1978 and set aside 20 acres would receive a payment of \$1,560," Hasbargen explains.

A normal barley yield of 50 bushels per acre would result in payments of \$17.50 per acre planted in 1978. Total payments to U.S. wheat and barley growers in December will be about \$700 million compared to the \$1.2 billion paid on the 1977 crop.

Farmers must file an amended return for 1977 in order to include earlier payments in that year's taxable income. "This is a fairly simple procedure that can be done at the same time as they file their 1978 returns," Hasbargen says.

He suggests that it will be to the advantage of most farmers to file amended returns, since most will show higher net incomes this year than last year. "With our progressive income tax rates which tax higher incomes at a higher rate, taxes can be saved by shifting net income from a higher income year to a lower year."

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December 11, 1978

Immediate release

TEXAS FEEDLOT
TOUR PLANNED

A four-day tour of Texas feedlots will examine the competition Minnesota beef producers face from southwest commercial feedlots Feb. 27 through March 2, 1979.

The Texas Feedlot Study Tour is being sponsored by the University of Minnesota in cooperation with the Minnesota Cattleman's Association and the Minnesota Extension Feedlot Committee.

The tour will visit commercial feedlots near Hereford, Gruver, and Dalhart, Texas. A meeting with staff and officers of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association to learn the current status and history of the Texas beef industry is planned.

A visit is also scheduled to the IBP Packing Plant near Amarillo, which is one of the largest and most modern beef plants in the world.

Interested cattle feeders and beef industry personnel are invited to take part in the tour. Registration is limited to 43 persons. The fee of \$400 includes airfare, bus transportation, hotel room and four meals. The full amount can be refunded on cancellations up until Feb. 23, 1979.

Further information is available from the Office of Special Programs, 405 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108. Phone: (612) 373-0725.

The tour is open to interested persons regardless of race, creed, color, sex national origin or handicap.

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December 11, 1978

Immediate release

AG RETAIL DEALERS
CONFERENCE SET

An agricultural retail dealers conference hosted by the _____ County extension office is scheduled for _____ at the _____.

(date)

(location)

The program begins at 3 p.m. and is intended for retail dealers of seed, fertilizer and agricultural pesticides. University of Minnesota specialists will discuss the latest information on crops, seed, soil, fertilizer, weeds, insects, diseases and pesticides.

More information is available from the _____ County extension office.

Retailer Dealer Conferences - 1979

<u>Date</u> 1979	<u>Host</u> <u>County</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 3	Olmsted Chippewa	Rochester Montevideo	Holiday Inn South Hunt Hotel
January 4	Steele Kandiyohi	Owatonna Willmar	Holiday Inn Freda's Bord
January 9	Murray W. Ottertail	Slayton Fergus Falls	Club Royal Elks Club
January 10	Watonwan- Martin Pennington	Ormsby Thief River Falls	Townhouse Best Western Motel
January 11	Blue Earth Wadena	Mankato Wadena	Happy Chef North Wadena Area Vocational Technical Institute
January 16	Isanti	Cambridge	Chalet
January 17	Meeker	Litchfield	Farmer's Daughter

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Immediate release

BUY-SELL STRATEGIES
RAISE BEEF RETURNS

Buy-sell strategies, such as buying lower quality beef feeders to upgrade, and selling during the seasonally high market, has increased returns by \$35 to \$40 per head, University of Minnesota economists say.

Nick Rolfes and Paul Hasbargen compared records of two groups of beef producers from 1971 to 1976. One group's returns were \$35 to \$40 higher per animal due to "good buy-sell strategies" they report.

"Current high prices will mean that this difference will be even greater in the future," they comment.

One strategy was to purchase a lower quality feeder, upgrade it and sell as a choice slaughter animal. The managers with higher returns also tended to personally purchase their cattle, rather than rely on buying agents. These managers "may have been receiving fresher cattle at lower prices because of fewer transactions between original seller and final buyer," Hasbargen and Rolfes say.

Heavier feeder cattle (500-600 lb.) bought in the fall were marketed during June, July and August. This is a period in which prices are usually 5-10 percent higher than the September-November period in which lighter cattle were sold.

The more skillful buyers obtained their feeders for almost \$4 per hundred-weight cheaper than the less skilled buyers but sold for \$1 per cwt. more, the researchers say. Lower death losses of one percent also boosted returns for the better buyers. Their heavier animals tended to be in better health than the lighter cattle purchased by the less skilled group.

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CA, IA, 4-L

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Tel. (612) 373-0710
December 11, 1978

Immediate release

Note: This news release could be used by newspapers and radio stations. For a short radio report, the first two paragraphs supply enough essential information.

EXPANSION, ENERGY TOPICS
FOR SWINE FEEDERS DAY

A top hog producer will discuss what it takes to successfully expand a swine operation during Swine Feeders Day.

The _____ Experiment Station will host the meeting in _____ on Jan. _____ from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This year, the University of Minnesota-sponsored event will feature Linden Olson, a Worthington, Minn., hog producer. He will talk about successful business improvements and expansions.

Conserving energy in hog buildings will be discussed by Kenneth Jordan, ag engineer. Nutrition reports will be given by R.J. Meade and H.E. Hanke, animal scientists. Swine nutritionist, Steve Cornelius, will talk on how protein levels affect production costs and about high fat diets.

Research reports will include comparisons of ground and rolled corn or wheat for growing pigs; weaning management; high lysine oats; and blood meal as a soybean replacement.

Swine Feeders Day registration is free and open to interested persons regardless of race, creed, color, sex, national origin or handicap.

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Jan. 9--Waseca--Southern Experiment Station

Jan. 10--Lamberton--Southwest Experiment Station

Jan. 11--Morris--West Central Experiment Station

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

December 11, 1978

Dear Home Economist:

The United Nations has declared 1979 "International Year of the Child."
This is an opportunity for us to re-affirm our concern about children and families and the forces that affect them.

Beginning with the following article, we will be looking at some specific topics related to children and families. We plan to provide you with a news article related to the International Year of the Child theme in the first news packet of each month throughout 1979. Use or adapt the material to fit your needs for news releases, columns, newsletters or radio-TV material.

As the series progresses, we welcome your comments on its content or suggestions for future articles. Let's work together to make this year-long information campaign a take-off point for some creative teaching and extension programming!

Sincerely,

Deedee Nagy

Deedee Nagy
Extension Information Specialist

Ronald L. Pitzer

Ron Pitzer
Extension Family Life Specialist

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and Agricultural Journalism
Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
December 11, 1978

Immediate release

Att: Extension Home Economists

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD:
HOW DO WE VIEW OUR CHILDREN?

Americans value their children for different reasons than they may have a generation or two ago. And both children and parents probably benefit from the change, says Ronald Pitzer, extension family life specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Children were once a labor source. In rural areas, sons and daughters were economic plusses. Their labor often spelled the difference between a successful and a failing farm, Pitzer says.

Today, however, a few families still depend on their children's labors to keep a farm or business solvent. Instead, the rising cost of child rearing causes many married couples to view large families as an economic hardship rather than a boon.

"This attitude change and shift toward smaller families has changed how we view our children," Pitzer says. "We now value our children more as people than as workers or belongings, similar to pieces of property."

He applauds this view of children because it implies that children have rights beyond food, clothing and shelter. "Children need nurturance and affection from adults and all of them have a right to it," Pitzer says. "This places a responsibility squarely on parents to find the time and to establish a climate for feelings of affection, concern and commitment to grow."

Family time together is critical to child rearing, Pitzer says. Studies have shown that some American children, who average some four to five hours a day in front of the TV, spend only several minutes a day with their fathers. "Too often, the time together that children and parents need to share feelings and experiences just isn't available," he says.

-more-

add 1--international year of the child:

Children feel the lack. Interviews with several hundred children have shown that their most frequent and important request of their parents has to do with time. They wanted parents to be available, to do things with them and not to sleep all the time.

Fathers often drew criticism from their offspring for the lack of availability. Not one child under age ten felt that his or her father was present and attentive to their needs enough of the time.

One eight-year-old girl said that her ideal father would be present "every day and every night, everyday. And on Sundays he should be around all day--not reading the paper the whole time and saying 'later' or 'after the ball game'."

The United Nations has proclaimed 1979 as International Year of the Child. Pitzer says this is a worldwide attempt to promote the well-being of children and to focus on their needs. As part of the IYC effort, he urges parents to look closely at their relationships with their children and to set aside time to strengthen family bonds.

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CA

Department of Information
and Agricultural Journalism
Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
December 11, 1978

ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

FRESHNESS KEY
TO CHRISTMAS
TREE SAFETY

A Christmas tree ablaze with lights sets a holiday mood, but sometimes that tree can quickly be ablaze with flames instead.

Marvin Smith, extension forester at the University of Minnesota, suggests that keeping a natural tree fresh is your best protection against holiday fire hazards. "A fresh tree won't support combustion," he says. "Individual needles may burn, but the fire won't spread."

Smith recommends cutting off one-to-one and one-half inches from the butt end of the tree and then placing it in water-filled sand. A tree will use several pints of water in the first 12 to 24 hours, so he recommends a careful eye on the water level.

Keep trees out of household traffic patterns and away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources, Smith suggests.

Artificial trees made of plastic should carry an Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label. Aluminum trees should be lit by a spotlight placed above or beside them. Never string Christmas tree lights on metal trees.

Be sure your lights are UL-approved. Check each set for broken sockets, frayed wires and loose connections. Never use indoor lights outdoors.

And be careful to turn off the lights whenever you leave the house or go to bed.

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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
December 15, 1978

PROFITABLE FORAGES MEETING PLANNED

Best ways to choose, produce and use forages will be discussed at the 4th annual symposium of the Minnesota Forage and Grassland Council Feb. 27.

The symposium, "Profitable Forages on Your Farm" will be held at the Hoffman House restaurant of the Midway Motor Lodge in Rochester, Minn. Speakers include dairymen, beef producers and researchers.

Several producer-specialist workshops will be featured. In each session, a beef or dairy producer teams up with a University of Minnesota specialist to discuss forages and answer questions from their audience.

Jerry Mahoney, the council's "Premier Forage Producer" in 1978, will discuss his Cannon Falls dairy and alfalfa operation. University of Minnesota agronomists Arne Hovin and Gary Heichel will review research results. Don Otterby, dairy scientist, will talk on ruminant digestion and forages.

Dave Patritz, extension economist from Purdue University, will describe Indiana's hay marketing system. Arland Pauli, Deere and Co. vice president, will give a rundown on new forage equipment.

Workshop topics include choosing the best alfalfa varieties, dairy feeding, beef feeding, managing alfalfa for higher yields, grass and grass-legume mixtures and alfalfa fertilizer needs.

For details or registration forms, contact your county extension agent or Craig Sheaffer, Dpt. of Agronomy, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, 55108. Registration is \$6. The meeting is open to interested persons regardless of race, creed, color, sex, national origin or handicap.

Department of Information
and Agricultural Journalism
Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
December 18, 1978

Please circulate

TO RELEASE, OR
NOT TO RELEASE?

The news releases county extension offices receive from the state News office may be tailored for county office use (in agents columns or for sending to newspapers). Or they may be written for general media use, such as: 1. daily newspapers, 2. general farm magazines, 3. specialized farm magazines, 4. others, such as garden magazines or forestry. You can tell where the release has been sent by "reading" the capital letter code at the bottom, left-hand side of the release. Here is a list of the most commonly used codes and their meanings.

CA--county extension offices (if the release has only CA on the bottom, then it has been tailored for your use and sent only to county offices and the CAS list, explained below.)

CAS--special list of publications that have requested us to send specialized material.

This list does not include any "home town" weekly newspapers. It does include Agri-News (out of Rochester), the SUN suburban chain, The Farmer, Midland Cooperator and a few publications that are located outside of Minnesota.

IA--This is the second most commonly used list. It includes the general farm magazines and Twin City daily newspapers, radio and TV; co-op newspapers; a few REA newspapers, and some advertising agencies. No IA news releases are sent to local "home town" newspapers. The farm editor of the Mankato Free Press is on this list by request.

D--Dairy magazines and newsletters

FC--Farm magazines specializing in field crops

FOR--Forestry magazines and newsletters

Hort--Horticulture publications

L--Livestock publications

TCO--Twin City newspapers, magazines, TV, radio

HE - Home Economics sections of daily newspapers statewide (food, family life)

-more-

add 1--to release, or not to release

As you can see, most local weekly newspapers receive our news releases only if a county extension agent or director delivers them to the paper. The newspaper may receive information about the University of Minnesota, or Extension through other means, such as attending an Extension-sponsored event in the area, or through the efforts of their own reporters and free-lance writers.

Extension office policies on media relations vary from county to county. Some counties want to have direct contact with local news media, and to be the only source of news releases from the state News office. Others may prefer the state News staff to send releases directly to the newspapers. Please let us know your preference by completing the form below, and adding any comments relating to news coverage.

Thanks for your help in improving communications.

Sincerely,

Jack Sperbeck, Kathy Chesney, Deedee Nagy

State NEWS Staff

Send to: News Section
433 Coffey Hall
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

Please continue to send all News Releases to our County Extension Office for use in contacting local media

Please send news releases directly to local newspapers, as well as to our County Extension Office
(Check one)

Send to all the newspapers in _____ county

Send to only the newspapers listed below

Comments:

Name of County Office _____

Name of corresponding agent or director _____

Department of Information
and Agricultural Journalism
Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
Tel. (612) 373-0710
December 18, 1978

Immediate release

DOCTOR SHOULD JUDGE
HOME WATER DISTILLER

Before investing in a home-size water distiller for health reasons, the buyer should consult the family physician, a University of Minnesota extension specialist advises.

"The decision about water quality is medical and should be made by consulting your personal physician," says Roger Machmeier, agricultural engineer. "Rely on the doctor's advice, rather than testimonials from persons selling water distillers. Testimonials may not apply to your personal health situation."

Machmeier explained that distillation is a process of evaporating water to leave minerals behind, and condensing the water back to a liquid. The process will not remove "volatile organics" such as chlorine from the water.

"Those who sell water distillers claim that water without minerals provides health benefits," Machmeier says. "However, mineral water advocates claim that the minerals in their water provides health benefits. In either case, these minerals are a relatively minor part of the diet."

He adds that distillation consumes a large amount of energy. In some situations, a distiller may be economically feasible for improving water quality for drinking and cooking.

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December 18, 1978

Immediate release

IN BRIEF . . .

Options on Sales Tax: Income taxpayers have the option to either expense out sales tax and some installation cost paid or to add it to the cost basis of an asset purchased, says Earl Fuller, extension economist in farm management at the University of Minnesota.

With most marginal tax rates and opportunity cost values of money, adding it to the value of the capital asset provides a greater present value. "If you hit the 50 percent marginal tax bracket this year, but do not expect to be there in coming years, then the reverse would be the case," Fuller says.

"If you are not paying any taxes at all this year due to low income, then quite obviously it would be better to capitalize it in order to have the depreciation available in future years," Fuller adds. "But for the 30-40 percent marginal tax bracket, where many Minnesota farmers find themselves this year, it is best to add sales tax to the capital asset's value."

* * * *

Don't Overlook Deductibles: Don't forget to include "often overlooked" business expenditures when filling out your tax returns, says Earl Fuller, extension economist at the University of Minnesota. These include business trips, organization dues and farm business office costs. "Remember, you can now only depreciate that part of your home used entirely as a farm business office," he cautions.

* * * *

Pollution Control Investments: These investments offer a six month, fast writeoff tax option. "Talk these options over with your tax adviser," says Earl Fuller, University of Minnesota economist. "Electing this route will likely cause a one-third loss of possible investment credits. If five years is an acceptable economic life, then a few years longer should be defensible at audit too."

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December 18, 1978

ATT: Extension Home Economists

Immediate release

FREEZING HOLIDAY LEFTOVERS
PROLONGS USEFULNESS

If you overestimated your family's appetite for holiday foods, put your freezer to work. Some of the items will look more appealing in a month or two, and a few can stay frozen until next holiday season.

Shirley T. Munson, extension horticulture specialist at the University of Minnesota, says that cookies and fruitcake can be stored at 0° F. for nine to twelve months if the sweets are packaged properly. She recommends packing cookies in frozen food containers or canisters with tight fitting covers. Thaw cookies in their original containers when you are ready to use them.

Wrap fruit cake in moisture-proof material such as polyethylene bags or heavy duty aluminum foil. Fruit cake should also thaw in its wrapper for best results.

Most candies keep fresh for a year or longer when stored at 0° F, Mrs. Munson says. Spun candy chips, chocolate covered nuts and candy with hard centers may crack or split, however. Marshmallow candies freeze well.

Like cookies and fruitcake, candy needs an effective moisture-proof wrap. This prevents damage due to condensation when candy is brought back to room temperature. Mrs. Munson cautions that many wraps used for boxed candies do not prevent this damage. When thawing candy, do not remove the moisture-proof wrap until it has warmed to room temperature.

Salted nuts will keep for about six months in the freezer although their initial freshness will affect how well they keep. Mrs. Munson suggests metal or glass containers with tight fitting lids for storing nuts. Unsalted nuts packed the same way will keep from nine to 12 months.

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