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Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
August 2 , 1979

Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney 612/373-0714

Soil Fertility Briefs. . .

Value of Soil Testing: Taking representative soil samples and having them tested is the most precise way of determining plant food needs; meeting those needs is one of the biggest expenditures in raising a crop.

Chuck Simkins, University of Minnesota extension soil scientist, says, "Some farmers who do not use soil testing under-fertilize; others quite often put on more plant food than is necessary to do the job."

Soil testing can help determine which crop to grow on a specific field. "If you put oats or barley on a field with a very high nitrogen level, that crop is more likely to lodge," Simkins says. "It would be better to put sunflowers or wheat on that field."

The scientist says his personal survey of farmers shows that many are interested in soil surveying, but that they either do not have confidence in their ability to collect representative samples, or are unwilling to spend the time and effort required. He advises those farmers to hire someone to sample for nitrogen annually and for phosphate and potash every three years. "It's as important to your soil as checking the oil regularly is to your car," Simkins says.

\* \* \* \*

Sample for Nitrogen Separately: Since nitrogen (N) behaves differently in the soil than phosphate (P) and potash (K), it should be sampled and tested separately.

Chuck Simkins, University of Minnesota extension soil scientist, says borings for nitrogen should be taken from the top two feet of soil. Six-inch borings are adequate for P and K tests. Nitrate-nitrogen moves up and down in the soil profile as moisture moves, while P and K stay in the top six to eight inches.

Since nitrate-nitrogen levels change drastically from year to year, N should be tested annually. P and K should be tested only once every three years. Simkins advises that 20 two-foot deep borings and 20 six-inch deep borings be made for each 40 acres. Samples should not be stored in closed plastic bags.

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Note: For more information, see Soils Fact Sheet No. 4, "Sampling Soil for Fertilizer and Lime Recommendations" available at county extension offices.

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
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LOOK FOR COMFORT, WEAR  
IN KID'S SCHOOL CLOTHES

School clothing should be comfortable and durable so children can take part in school activities without fear of tearing or soiling their outfits says Sherri Johnson, extension textiles and clothing specialist at the University of Minnesota.

She suggests checking for the following things when buying children's clothes:

- \* Seams should be soft and flat to prevent irritation and well finished to resist pulling out and raveling.
- \* Points of greatest strain such as under buttonholes, ends of pockets and closures, crotch and sleeve seams should be reinforced.
- \* Fasteners and trimmings should be firmly attached and washable.
- \* Hems and pant cuffs should be deep enough for lengthening.
- \* Fabrics should be durable. Knit tops of cotton, cotton/polyester or nylon are good, and nylon is especially durable. Cotton/polyester will not shrink or stretch as readily as cotton, and it is more durable.
- \* Jumpers and dresses that fall from the shoulder and do not have waistlines are ideal for girls who are growing rapidly.

Mrs. Johnson says raglan and kimono sleeves are good choices because they offer room for movement across shoulders and chest. Yokes with gathers also are comfortable. Similarly, crotch and hip areas should have ample ease for comfort in bending.

Necklines should be checked for gapping or binding that can cause skin irritation. Growth features such as let-out tucks are practical because they lengthen the time a child can use a garment.

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Wanda Olson (612) 373-0913

ENERGY LABELING ON MAJOR  
APPLIANCES DUE IN 1980

Consumers will soon have help in selecting energy efficient major appliances, says Wanda Olson, University of Minnesota extension equipment specialist.

The Energy Policy and Conservation Act will require five major appliances to have energy guide labels by the start of 1980. The guide labels will enable consumers to make energy operating cost comparisons between different models.

Appliances covered by the act are: refrigerator-freezers, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers and water heaters. Ranges and other small cooking appliances are not included under the act, Olson says, because the energy used in cooking varies according to operator use and only to a lesser extent on appliance efficiency.

Furnaces and room air conditioners will carry energy efficiency ratings rather than energy guide labels, Olson says. Energy used by these appliances depends greatly on local climate.

The black and yellow guide labels provide the appliance's average annual operating cost and a comparison between the most and least expensive model, Olson says. Average annual operating costs for various utility rates will also appear.

Appliances which require hot water, such as clothes washers and dishwashers, will bear labels with the average annual energy cost, including the electricity and gas needed to heat water. Yearly costs based on loads per week will also appear.

"It's difficult to know the energy efficiency of an appliance just by looking at it," Olson says. "The labels will give an estimated cost, but the information is reliable when comparing similar models."

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Neal Martin (612) 373-1181

Writer: Kathy Chesney (612) 373-0714

ROSEMOUNT TOUR TO SHOW  
FUTURE FORAGE TRENDS

What lies ahead for forage crops? A tour of forage research projects with opportunities to visit with the researchers will take place at the Rosemount experiment station Sept. 10.

"Forages will supply excellent livestock feed while conserving soil, water and energy in the future," says University of Minnesota extension agronomist Neal Martin. "University researchers are aiming toward that future by continually looking for better ways to produce the high yielding, quality forages producers want."

One tour highlight will be an alfalfa seeding equipment demonstration. At least six different seeders were used in early August. Guests can see these seeders in action during the tour and view the August-seeded stands.

The morning tours will include research on quackgrass control, summer-seeded birdsfoot trefoil varieties, a grazing trial on low-alkaloid line of reed canarygrass, a palatability study using various cool season grasses and an interseeding demonstration.

Afternoon tours will highlight influence of planting dates, herbicides and rates of alfalfa interseedings, nitrogen fixation potentials, fall dormancy, grass variatal performance, alfalfa establishment, insect control and screening for disease resistance in alfalfa.

Registration will be at 9:30 am and tours will run until 3 pm. Tours will be free and lunch will be available for a small fee. Sponsors are the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station and the Minnesota Forage and Grassland Council.

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

Source: Lee Hardman (612)373-1181

Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney (612) 373-0714

CHECK SOYBEAN FIELD NOW TO  
IMPROVE NEXT YEAR'S CROP

Walking your soybean fields this August to collect data on disease, weed and fertility control could prevent problems with your 1980 crop, says University of Minnesota agronomist Lee Hardman.

"This is the time of year to check for symptoms of a soybean cyst nematode infestation," the extension specialist says. "If the beans look yellowed and stunted, and the affected patch runs in the direction of tillage, you may want to collect samples and send them to our plant pathology lab for a check." County extension offices have details on how to collect samples and where to send them.

Fields with nematode problems should be rotated away from legume crops for several years. Resistant soybean varieties and consistently effective chemicals have not been fully tested for dealing with this newly discovered disease in Minnesota.

"This is the time when fertility problems show up," Hardman adds. "Check for seeding rate problems so machinery can be better adjusted. Identify weeds that escaped your weed control program. Record all this information on a field basis so you can make accurate decisions next year," he advises.

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and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: John Lofgren (612) 373-1704

Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney (612) 373-0714

LOCALIZED ARMYWORM INFESTATIONS  
FOUND IN MINNESOTA GRAIN CROPS

Armyworms are damaging corn and small grain crops in localized areas of the state, reports University of Minnesota extension entomologist John Lofgren.

"Damage to corn has been reported in Dakota and Pine counties, but the biggest problem is in areas north of Little Falls in Morrison county," Lofgren says. Infestations of small grain fields have occurred in eastern Polk County and western St. Louis County.

Farmers should closely monitor their fields to minimize economic losses. If damage is already done to small grains and the worms are full grown, "spraying is just a matter of revenge," Lofgren says. "But we did have a long, strung-out egg-laying period this year. Fields that still have small worms in them may be worthwhile treating."

The infestation level at which spraying small grain becomes economically worthwhile is five worms per square foot. There are several such "economic thresholds" for corn: (1) three worms per plant if 10 percent of plants are infested, (2) two worms per plant on 25 percent of plants, or (3) one worm on 60-75 percent.

Armyworms are most likely to be a problem in cornfields with a grassy weed problem. Small grain that is knocked down by wind or hail is more likely to be infested than unlodged grain.

Toxaphene is a recommended treatment for small grain and corn. Straw or silage from toxaphene-treated fields must not be used as feed or bedding for livestock. Malathion can be used on small grain or corn without restriction on straw or silage use. Carbaryl (Sevin) is recommended for corn without restriction on silage use. For details, see entomology fact sheet No. 12, "Armyworms" available at county extension offices.

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and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Harold Cloud (612) 373-0764

Writer: Kathy Chesney (612) 373-0714

#### AERATE GRAIN IN EMERGENCY STORAGE

As transportation problems such as the Duluth grain handlers strike prevent farmers from marketing their grain, emergency storage methods must be used. These methods can reduce storage risks if a few guidelines are followed, a University of Minnesota specialist says.

"Farmers will be storing grain in machine sheds, utility buildings, barns and, as a last result, piling it on the ground," says extension agricultural engineer Harold Cloud. These methods can be reasonably successful if good procedures are followed.

Cloud makes these suggestions:

- Buildings should be cleaned. A well drained site should be selected and a sheet of plastic laid out before grain is poured.
- Ground sites should be contoured in such a way that rain runoff moves away from piled grain. Again, heavy plastic should be laid on the ground to prevent moisture migration from the ground.
- Place an aeration duct over the center of the plastic. Pile grain over the duct.
- Attach a one-half or three-quarter horsepower grain aeration fan over the duct. Aerate grain until it is cooled down to equal the outside temperature.
- Cover outside piles with plastic. This should be done only after grain is cooled, to prevent moisture condensation on the top of the grain.

"Grain stored this way should be the last harvested and the first marketed," Cloud adds. "These are meant to be temporary and will protect grain reasonably well for a short time."

For details on using such methods, and information on the economics of emergency storage, see agricultural engineering fact sheet No. 23, "Emergency Grain Storage," available at county extension offices.

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Ken Egertson (612) 373-1093

Paul Hasbargen (612) 373-1145

#### MARKET BRIEFS...

Hogs: Because currently low hog prices reflect a large supply, the market will probably remain depressed until production drops. Ken Egertson, University of Minnesota extension marketing specialist, reports that about 20 percent more hogs are being marketed now than at the same time last year. "Back in February when prices were at a seasonal peak the supply was running just slightly above a year earlier. About 1.4 million hogs (federally inspected) were marketed on a weekly basis. Now we're marketing between 1.5 and 1.6 million each week."

Hog and pork prices are very sensitive to increases in supply, he adds. Since February, prices have come down about 20 cents per pound on a live-weight basis, and about 17 cents on all cuts from the carcass on a retail basis.

The break-even point for established producers is set at about the \$40 per hundredweight mark. The break-even for new facilities is in the mid 40s. (This price is usually sufficient to cover all costs including a return on labor and investment.) Currently, prices are in the middle 30s and Egertson says they will probably go even lower. "Profitable levels likely won't return until supply adjustments are made sometime in late 1980," he concludes.

\* \* \* \*

Feedgrains: The major story behind the recent decline in feedgrain prices has to do with changing expectations of this year's crop size, says University of Minnesota extension ag economist Paul Hasbargen. "Reports are that the crop in the corn belt could be just as good as it was last year, if we don't have an early frost. We could have that seven billion bushel corn crop again. This would be more than enough for feedgrain use in the coming year. I still think, however, that even with a seven billion bushel crop prices could be a little higher than they were last year because of larger feed and export needs as well as the declining value of the dollar."



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(Note to Agents: These items were  
taken from National Food Review,  
a USDA publication.)

FOOD DOLLAR BRIEFS...

The current assessment of 1979 retail food price increases indicates an overall average gain of 10 percent. Within the food-at-home category, products derived from crops are expected to rise about seven percent. Products on animal origin are expected to rise 13 percent over last year.

The first quarter 1979 Consumer Price Index for food rose 4.4 percent over the preceding quarter and was 12.7 percent higher than the corresponding period a year ago. This was the largest quarter-to-quarter increase since the first three months of 1974.

\* \* \* \*

Consumers continued to increase their food expenditures during the first three months of 1979. Preliminary estimates from the USDA show that expenditures this year total roughly \$258 billion, nearly 13 percent above the same period in 1978.

Reduced supplies of food--especially red meats--were primarily responsible for increased expenditures. The per capita beef supply for 1979 may be only 82 pounds, the lowest per capita total in six years and eight percent less than last year.

Meat is a major item in the consumer's budget, usually accounting for more than 30 percent of expenditures. The cost of food in the near future is closely related to the price of red meats and vegetables. Pork production is expected to increase and meat prices should begin to moderate, the USDA reports.

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add 1--food dollar briefs

Americans ate about 150 pounds of red meat per person in 1978 and spent 25 to 30 percent of each food dollar for such products, the USDA reports.

Data from a Bureau of Labor Statistics survey show that income distribution, by itself, has little affect on the amount spent on red meat, but it does have a major impact on the type of meat purchased.

According to the survey, per person at-home expenditures for red meat averaged \$116 annually, with very little difference by income level. Wealthier consumers purchased more beef, while lower income consumers bought more pork.

\* \* \* \*

As expected, red meats are still the most expensive source of protein, the USDA reports. Based on the cost of 20 grams of protein, lamb chops top the list at \$1.09 for 20 grams, followed by bacon (99 cents), porterhouse steak (89 cents), pork sausage (83 cents), and veal (70 cents).

The least expensive protein source is dry beans (13 cents). Peanut butter is next (17 cents) followed by white bread (18 cents), beef liver (20 cents) and eggs (20 cents).

Although red meat is the most costly protein source, some relatively inexpensive cuts exist: liver, hamburger, chuck, ham, rump roast, pork loin and sirloin. Poultry is a better protein buy than most meats or fish; whole birds are more economical than cut-up.

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Dottie Goss (612) 373-0914  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP  
INTO REFUND OFFERS

Although refunding has been offered to consumers for some time the number of these offers, as well as their monetary value, has increased in recent years.

Refunding typically involves sending a manufacturer a specified number of proofs of purchase--box tops, labels, net weight statements, wrapper or product codes--from the products purchased. In return, consumers receive either cash or a coupon good for a price reduction on a future purchase.

"Refund offers are designed to provide an extra incentive for the consumer to purchase products," says Dottie Goss, University of Minnesota extension family resource management specialist. "But consumers should be careful not to fall into the trap of purchasing products just to get a refund if they normally would select a comparable product for less cost."

In spite of their apparent value, most consumers don't take advantage of refund offers; according to a recent Nielsen study, three-quarters of all consumers know refunds exist, but fewer than one-third have ever used them.

"Many times consumers will buy a product because of the refund only to use up the product, discard the package, forgetting about the refund," Goss says. "Building your shopping list around refund offers may result in ending up with purchases which aren't the most nutritious, appealing and economical in the long run."

When using the refund offers, Goss advises, make sure the value is worthwhile. Take into consideration the initial purchase price, cost of postage, the effort involved and other comparable products available at lesser cost.

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Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Sherri Johnson (612) 376-1537

Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

SYNTHETIC OR NATURAL,  
YOUR CLOTHES  
ARE ENERGY CONSUMERS

Rising energy costs and the uncertainty of future supplies have led some people to join car pools and dial down in winter months. A less obvious energy drain may be the clothes in your closet, says Sherri Johnson, University of Minnesota extension textiles specialist.

"In the last couple of decades, consumers have gone to more synthetics and to less natural fibers," Johnson says. "In fact, two-thirds of all fibers consumed in 1977 were synthetic products. Since these use petroleum in production and processing, one might assume it would be wise to switch to more natural fibers as a means of conserving energy. But cotton production also requires petroleum and other energy sources. It's also important to consider what type of maintenance is required of these natural fibers."

Citing a study that looked at the energy consumed in the production and maintenance of a 100-percent cotton shirt versus a 65-percent polyester-35 percent cotton shirt, Johnson reports that the 100-percent cotton shirt ultimately was more costly in terms of energy use. Although a synthetic fiber shirt requires about one-fourth more energy to produce, she says, a natural fiber shirt requires more than twice as much energy to maintain over the same number of laundering cycles but lasts only two-thirds as long.

What's also interesting, Johnson notes, is that more energy is required to maintain than to produce both types of shirts--especially the 100-percent cotton one.

"When shopping, look for fabrics that require less maintenance," Johnson says. "For example, a no-iron, all-cotton shirt, soon to be available, will provide convenience and some energy savings to consumers."

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Robert Aherin (612) 373-0764

Writer: DeeDee Nagy (612) 373-1781

#### HOW SAFE ARE YOUR JUNIOR PASSENGERS?

Automobile accidents are the leading cause of children's deaths, according to Robert Aherin, extension safety specialist at the University of Minnesota. The use of restraint systems such as car seats and harnesses, could cut children's deaths by up to 80 percent, he says.

More than 1,000 infants and children die each year in automobile mishaps and another 80,000 are injured. But so far, only one state (Tennessee) has a law requiring use of restraints by child passengers.

"Young children are particularly vulnerable to injury in an automobile accident because of their small bodies, heavy heads and short legs," Aherin says. "Although older children can be protected by standard lap belts, those under 40 pounds or about age four need extra restraining devices."

He also cautions that holding children is no protection, even if the adult is properly belted. "A 20-pound infant involved in a collision in a car traveling at 30 miles an hour is thrown forward with a force of 600 pounds. Even if the child isn't thrown from the car, the adult's weight could crush his or her body."

There are four types of child restraint devices, Aherin says.

\* Infant restraints--These seats generally face rearward and are intended for use with children weighing about 20 pounds or less. The child is secured in the carrier with a harness and the carrier is attached to the vehicle with a lap belt.

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add 1--junior passenger safety

\* Car seat restraints--Intended for children who weigh 20 pounds or more and can sit without support. These seats attach to the car with a lap belt. They include shoulder, lap and crotch straps to secure the child in the seat.

\* Protective shield restraint--Shield-type car seats require no harness and are secured to the vehicle with a lap belt. They are for children weighing 20 pounds or more who can sit by themselves. Some very active children are able to climb out of this type restraint.

\* Harness--This consists of shoulder, lap and crotch straps and a top tether strap which requires installation or, if used in the front seat, attaches to a rear seat lap belt.

Deciding which type of restraint to use involves several considerations including characteristics of the device itself, the child, the vehicle and the cost, Aherin says. Only devices designed for in-car protection are adequate for young passengers.

Never use car booster seats that are placed on the seat with no attachment nor those that hook over the seat back. Car beds and infant carriers are also inadequate protection for a baby in an accident, he adds.

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
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CONSUMER BRIEFS. . .

If you think a particular food, drug or medical product is unsanitary, mislabeled, or otherwise harmful, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) wants to know about it. It may lead to a recall or other corrective measures.

Make sure you've used the product correctly. Was the product outdated or could an allergy have triggered a side effect? If a complaint is justified call the nearest FDA office listed in the telephone directory under U.S. government: Department of Health Education and Welfare; FDA.

Include your name, address and phone number and clearly state what is wrong with the product. Describe the product label fully and give the date and place of purchase. Save any unused portion for FDA testing.

A complaint should also be registered at the store where you purchased the product and to the product's manufacturer.

\* \* \* \*

Could that used car you want to buy have any defects? Thousands of cars are recalled every year because of defects. It pays to find out if the one you're considering is in need of repair.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has a toll-free hotline you may call: 800-424-9393. Tell the hotline staffers the make, model and year of the car and they'll tell you whether these cars have ever been recalled and why.

To report problems with getting gasoline, or to report dealer prices which exceed the posted limit, use the Energy Hotline, established by the Economic Regulatory Administration (ERA).

The hotline may also be used to report dealers who give special treatment to preferred customers or those who require the purchase of a product or a service in order to buy gasoline.

ERA will take those cases which serve the public interest, Call 800-424-9246.

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Writer: Jack Sperbeck (612) 373-0715

WOOD BURNING BRIEFS...

Wood Stoves: You have lots of company if you've decided to join the heating-with-wood crowd. However, you could invite fire hazards if you aren't careful.

Many better stoves are listed with national safety listing agencies. Look for this listing and safety certification if you're buying a stove. Operation and safety instructions should be included with the stove.

Good wood stoves are not cheap. You should plan to pay from \$300 to \$500 and up to get a good one. Heavy steel plate or cast iron are the best materials. Weight of the unit is an indication of its quality and effectiveness.

\* \* \* \*

Safe Chimneys: If you plan to burn wood and have an old chimney previously used for wood or coal, check it for smoke and heat worthiness. Look for loose mortar joints and cracks. Old chimneys have a way of collecting leaves, squirrel nests and other debris, so clean them before starting a fire.

If you can't see the entire chimney, you can check it for leaks by building a small, smokey fire. Put a cover over the top of the chimney and look for areas where smoke escapes.

\* \* \* \*

Seasoned Wood: Too many new wood stove owners install their stoves one day and begin cutting wood the next. Burning green wood compounds the problems of soot and creosote deposits and can increase the chances of dangerous chimney fires. When wood burns slowly, it produces acids that combine with moisture to form creosote. Firewood should be cut, split and stacked to dry for at least nine to twelve months before it's ready to burn.

\* \* \* \*

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add one--wood burning briefs

Wood Selection: Heat value and ease of starting are two factors to consider if you're buying or cutting wood for home heating. Common woods that provide maximum heat are oak, maple, locust, hickory and beech. These woods are generally more difficult to ignite, but they produce few sparks and burn down into coals for lingering heat.

Woods rated good or excellent for starting ease include pine, cedar and hemlock. These are less dense woods and do not produce as much heat per cord of wood. They also generate more sparks and fewer coals. If a fragrant fire is your goal, apple and cherry woods are best. Other fragrant woods include maple, cedar, hemlock and pine.

\* \* \* \*

What's a Cord? Most wood is sold by the cord, which is a pile of wood eight feet long, four feet wide and four feet high. Because of empty spaces between logs, a cord is assumed to contain 90 cubic feet of solid wood, although some local ordinances may require more. A "fireplace" cord or "rick" is a wood pile that includes one-third the amount of solid wood in the standard cord. Common lengths of wood marketed for fireplace use are 16 and 22 inches, but others can range from 12 to 36 inches.

\* \* \* \*

Fireplace Efficiency: A fireplace is not an economical way of heating a house, compared to a wood burning stove or furnace. While a fireplace is in use, it provides some heat to the house but the draft created by the fire also drains heat from the house. On a cold night, such loss could be greater than any heat gained from the fireplace blaze. However, heat from a fireplace can be important when the primary heating system is not working.

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Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney 612/373-0714

CORN CROP BRIEFS...

Corn Maturity Outlook Not Optimistic: Based on the current stage of development the state's corn crop will not be physiologically mature until very late September or early October.

"The crop needs good growing weather all through September and even into October," says University of Minnesota extension agronomist Dale Hicks. "Unfortunately, the 30-day weather outlook is for below average temperatures."

Corn can tolerate some frost injury. "Anything less than 100 percent leaf-kill will allow for an increase in dry grain matter," Hicks says. "If we have temperatures that kill some of the upper leaves there will be some effect on yield, but it won't be a drastic situation."

\* \* \* \*

Time to Walk the Fields: Now is the time to walk through corn fields and look for ways to improve next year's crop, says University of Minnesota extension agronomist Dale Hicks.

"Growers may see nitrogen deficiencies," he says. "This could be caused by denitrification losses from the excessive moisture of the last two-three weeks. Knowing the weather conditions could help the grower tell if the deficiency is from excessive moisture or insufficient nitrogen application."

Plant population should also be checked. One indicator is ear size. If the plants have extremely large ears or consistantly more than one ear per main stalk, the population may be too low for maximum grain yield. If more than 3-5 percent of the stalks do not have ears, the population may be too low.

This is also a good time to take notes on the weed population and species in particular fields.

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and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: R.M. Jordan 612/373-0974  
Writer: Kathy Chesney 612/373-0714

### SHEEP PRODUCTION BRIEFS...

The "Business" of Sheep Production: As sheep numbers have grown in Minnesota and ewes have increased in price, the ewe flock has become more of a business venture, says University of Minnesota extension animal scientist R.M. Jordan

"In the last five years, we have seen quite a turnaround in the attitude of sheep people," Jordan says. "This year, we have seen a turnaround in sheep numbers. They increased for the first time in 10 years."

Once, the sheep producer expected to pay a few hundred dollars for his ewe flock. That price is now in the thousands and tens of thousands of dollars.

\* \* \* \*

Remember Interest and Depreciation: Among the business aspects of sheep production that should not be overlooked are the depreciation and interest costs, says University of Minnesota extension animal scientist R.M. Jordan. "Anyone who is running 100-200 ewes should appreciate that depreciation and interest on facilities, equipment and ewes represent a sizable amount of money. These costs should not be overlooked, especially at tax time."

\* \* \* \*

Mature Versus Yearling Ewes: The sheep producer who buys mature ewes should not pay more than half of what yearlings would cost, says University of Minnesota extension animal scientist R.M. Jordan. "If yearlings are \$100, then \$50 is about all you can afford to pay for a mature ewe," he says. "Mature ewes have more lambs, but they take more feed and their mortality is much higher.."

\* \* \* \*

Note: For more information on the business aspects of sheep production, see Animal Science Fact Sheet No. 32, "Capital Requirements for a Flock of 100 Ewes" or Extension Folder 449, "Starting or Expanding Your Sheep Flock." They are available at your county extension office.

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
August 20, 1979

Immediate release

Source: Isabel Wolf (612) 376-3401  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

#### PRESSURE CANNING TOMATOES SAVES ENERGY

Although tomatoes contain enough naturally-occurring acids to permit canning in a water bath canner at 212 degrees, you may want to use your pressure canner this year to save energy, says Isabel Wolf, University of Minnesota extension foods and nutrition specialist.

"Tomatoes may be canned using either method," Wolf says, "but using a pressure canner takes less time, creates less heat in the kitchen and uses about three times less energy than the water bath canning method according to recently published research."

#### GETTING READY

--Get all your equipment ready before preparing the tomatoes. Wash and rinse the canning jars, checking rims for nicks. Sterilizing the jars is unnecessary; they become sterilized during the heat process.

--Wash tomatoes, discarding those which are over-ripe or marred. Dip each tomato into boiling water for 30 seconds, then plunge into cold water. Cut out core and loosen skin.

--Put whole tomatoes or cut quarters into clean jars. Press down with a spoon to pack. The juice will fill the jar. Do not add any water. Remove air pockets by sliding a rubber or plastic spatula down the side of the jar. Leave about one-half inch of headspace at the top. You may want to add one teaspoon of salt to each quart or  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt to each pint.

--Wipe the rim of each jar with a clean cloth. Screw on canning lid to the top of each jar, following manufacturer's directions.

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7A27p

add one--tomatoes

ENERGY SAVING PRESSURE PROCESS FOR TOMATOES

--Place jars of tomatoes in a pressure canner filled two to three inches with boiling water.

--Lock the lid into closed position. Put the burner on high. When a steady column of steam is escaping from the vent, put on the pressure regulator or weighted gauge.

--When the dial gauge or weighted gauge indicates the pressure has reached 15 pounds, turn off the heat and allow the pressure to return to zero (0) pounds. If you have an electric range, remove the canner from the burner.

--Remove pressure regulator or weighted gauge. After 10 minutes, unlock the lid and remove cover of canner.

--Remove hot jars from canner with lifter. Cool jars upright on clean, dry cloth or wooden boards.

--The next day, check for a proper seal. Store sealed jars in a cool dry place.

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4-H NEWS  
Immediate release

4-H YOUTH EXCELL AT  
MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

EDITOR'S NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ County Extension Agent, sends us the following message from the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

ST. PAUL--We have \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H youth representing \_\_\_\_\_ County at the Minnesota State Fair this year, and each one of them has excelled in one area or another. They are among the 5,500 4-H'ers from every county in the state. If you still plan to attend the fair, be sure to look up these youth: (names, towns, main activities, or a summary of county involvements).

There are many other 4-H activities. Demonstrations seem especially creative this year. Some of the topics listed include how to use your home computer, preparing wool for spinning at home, how to make Danish, Indian, and Czechoslovakian food and paint Ukrainian Easter eggs, all types of needlework, and how to train your hunting dog. (A big Black Lab helped with the last one.) In special "Youth-in-Action" demonstrations, 4-H'ers play the part of salesmen trying to sell the public on the ideas of taking care of their eyes or eating wholesome, healthy, Minnesota food products. In the Children's Center, young people display child development concepts by actually working and playing with the children who stop by.

If you are taking small children to the fair, you won't want them to miss the good times in the park directly west of the 4-H building. "Winnie the Pooh" is playing three times a day on the outdoor stage, and young 4-H artists have set up little craft shops where they teach young people to make art and craft items. Indian 4-H members in their native dress are performing a hoop dance in the park. Inside the 4-H building, members give a fine song and dance show daily called "The Wizard and the Wiz."

As always, one of the big attractions is the 4-H Livestock Show held the last three days. Everything from rabbits to goats will be judged and exhibited. The Lamb Lead on Saturday evening features 4-H'ers dressed in wool outfits taking their well-trained and groomed ewe lambs around the show ring. Awards are given according to the person's poise, his or her outfit, and the lamb.

The State Fair marks the culmination of a year's work and learning for many of our 4-H'ers. I'm proud of them, not only because of what they did this year, but also because of how they grew as persons.

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Ward Steinstra (612) 373-0937  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

AUTUMN LAWN CARE BRIEFS...

Fertilize in the fall: Fertilizing in the fall will give your lawn enough nutrients to last until spring, says Ward Steinstra, University of Minnesota extension turf specialist. By doing so you'll avoid the problems associated with early spring fertilizing, he says.

"Homeowners can fertilize their lawns well after the first frost, as long as the ground isn't completely frozen," Steinstra says. "Even after a few frosts, the root system is still active, though the tops have slowed down."

\* \* \* \*

Avoid winter lawn damage: Many Minnesota lawns suffered from snow mold last winter, damage which could have been avoided with practical fall lawn care, according to Ward Steinstra, University of Minnesota extension turf specialist.

"The fungicides and chemicals used to treat snow mold aren't recommended for home lawn care," he says. "Homeowners can avoid potential damage by keeping their lawns mowed at summer height; don't let it get long and start to lay over. And make sure leaves and other debris don't collect on your lawn."

Fallen leaves make excellent mulch, Steinstra says, because they add organic matter to the soil. "Just don't leave a layer that will smother the grass."

\* \* \* \*

Apply herbicides in the fall: Fall is a good time to treat broadleaf weeds and dandelions, says Ward Steinstra, University of Minnesota extension turf specialist.

"Applying a herbicide such as 2-4-D on a sunny warm autumn day will get you one step ahead for next spring," he says. "By this time of year, most of the annuals have finished growing and there's less chance of damaging the plants you want to keep, an added advantage of fall weed control."

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
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Source: Ron Pitzer 612/376-3851  
Writer: Diedre Nagy 612/373-1781

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CHILD:  
LET FAMILY NATURE STUDY  
BENEFIT KIDS, PARENTS

What makes the grass grow?

Does it grow down too?

Why is it green?

If you are a parent, chances are you have heard questions like these tumble from your wide-eyed children. Ronald Pitzer, extension family life specialist at the University of Minnesota, suggests that children's sense of delight and awe can re-awaken adults to wonders around them.

The autumn months of International Year of the Child are a good time for families to plan hikes and outings with an eye toward appreciating nature. Besides being a pleasant break for parents, the experience may help foster creativity and sensitivity in children.

"The quality of perceptiveness and awareness is probably the dominant trait in creative people, yet it can be developed in everyone," Pitzer says. "As adults interested in increasing children's awareness, we must first be more open and responsive to our own experiences."

He encourages families to exercise all their senses when on an outdoor excursion. Here are some of his suggestions for family outings:

- \* Quiet listening -- Have children sit quietly for 60 seconds and then talk about what they have heard. Listen for the wind, bird calls, insects and animal sounds.
- \* Colors -- A natural for fall hikes. Collect colored leaves and talk about nature's transition into winter.
- \* Textures -- Touch brings ideas of what any object is like. Go on texture hunts. What things are soft and fluffy? What are smooth? Coarse?
- \* Smells -- Let your nose do the hunting. How does the ground smell after a rain? How do dry leaves smell? Do smells and taste go together in some things such as mint leaves, pine needles, apples?

Any kind of outing is a good chance for children to learn from parents' examples, Pitzer says. He urges parents to be model outdoorsmen.

For example, he says, teach children to leave nature neat and clean. Show respect for natural objects by leaving them where they are, and learn to respect, but not fear, wild animals, storms and water.



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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Leonard Hertz (612) 373-1103  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

EARLY MINNESOTA APPLES TO APPEAR SOON

Although the majority of Minnesota's apples won't ripen until mid-to-late fall, apple lovers have several early maturing varieties from which to choose, according to Leonard Hertz, University of Minnesota extension fruits specialist.

Beacon, an early, medium-sized apple is good for pies, sauces and just plain eating, Hertz says, and should be plentiful by the State Fair time. "Like most early apples, Beacon is not a good storing apple, so buy them in small quantities and plan on using them right away."

Manet, a smallish, juicy sweet apple and Oriole, a large summer apple, may be used as one would use Beacon, Hertz says. Duchess, a medium-sized early apple is quite tart and is best when used in cooking.

"The good keeping apples, such as the ever-favorite Minnesota Haralson, the McIntosh and the Connell Red should be out by late September, early October," Hertz says. "These are the kind of apples you buy by the bushel rather than the peck. If properly stored, these apples should last through January and even February."

Last year was a super year for apple producers, Hertz says. This year may be less than super, if not merely average.

"These last few winters have been very severe and we've lost literally hundreds of apple trees in Minnesota," he says. "This year, we won't be able to commercially produce as many apples as we'd like to. This could mean slightly higher prices."

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add 1--teens in the family

The family automobile consumes about 42 percent of all household energy, roughly the same as heating and air conditioning (40 percent).

"If families want to develop an energy conservation program, it must be based on more than turning out lights or not using the electric can opener," Hogan states. "Not that these practices don't make a difference. But when we look at the large picture, the real difference will come from changing our driving habits, doing something about insulating our homes, turning thermostats down and moving toward smaller homes and multi-family dwellings."

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: M. Janice Hogan (612) 373-1856  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

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## TEENS IN THE FAMILY COULD MEAN BIG GAS BILLS

If your family drives many miles each year and if there are teenagers in the family--watch out. They may really be putting on the biggest share of the miles.

This is only one of many conclusions from a study directed by University of Minnesota family social scientist M. Janice Hogan. Hogan and research assistants Joan Como and Elaine Pederson collected data from 40 Minnesota families over a one-year period to determine their energy consumption patterns and what each family was doing to conserve energy. In regards to transportation patterns, the families were divided into high energy use families (those who drive 20,000 miles or more each year) and low energy use families (those who drive less than 10,000 miles each year).

"We found that the high energy use families usually owned two or more vehicles, one an economy model and the other a standard model," Hogan says. The high energy families used the car for work, usually traveling more than 10 miles per trip. These families had knowledge of conservation alternatives, such as carpooling or mass transit, but most said these were either inconvenient or too time consuming.

"The low energy use families frequently owned one standard model automobile and saw themselves as conservers," Hogan continues. "These people had little or no need for private transportation to and from work."

However, Hogan reports that families quickly became high energy users as soon as teenagers were eligible to drive and used one of the family cars extensively for social activities.

"Teenagers in the family might want to keep mileage diaries to evaluate the use of the family car for recreation," she says. "Parents might want to do the same, to evaluate their own driving patterns."

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St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Paul Hasbargen  
612/373-1145

Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

GETTING THE MOST FROM AG  
OUTLOOK INFORMATION

Livestock and crop producers can make better use of market outlook information if they think in terms of "pricing" their cattle and corn rather than "selling" them.

University of Minnesota extension farm management specialist Paul Hasbargen explains the difference: "The selling concept implies delivery of the product at the same time that it's priced. If we talk about pricing our products instead, we include the options of using the futures market or direct contracts."

For instance, on February 7, 1979, the July futures contract for hogs was \$52 per cwt. for delivery at South St. Paul. Outlook information at that time indicated the hog cycle would be in a stage of expanding production and declining prices during 1979 and 1980. The producer who "priced" his July production in February at the \$52 contract could have gained a higher return than the producer who "sold" his production at the average July cash price of \$39.

"Marketing specialists have long tried to tell us we could 'forward price' our products through the futures market or direct contracts," Hasbargen says. "Most producers have not yet adopted these tools. Let's get into the habit of asking 'have you priced your cattle yet' instead of 'have you sold yet.' That way we take into account the fact that delivery time can be quite different than the time at which we make a price agreement."

What about forward pricing for fall, 1979? Hasbargen says, "It appears there are no good forward pricing opportunities for cattle and hogs on the selling side. On the buying side, however, it's a good time to price feeder cattle that may not be moved into the lot for several months."

Price vs. Profit

Talking in terms of securing the highest "profit" rather than the highest "price" would also be beneficial to producers. For instance, there are several costs involved with holding crops or livestock for better prices. For crops, it costs about one percent of the bushel value to cover interest and shrink for each month it's held in farm storage. (7¢/month on \$7 beans; 3.5¢ on \$3.50 wheat)

For livestock, feed costs and interest rates are especially high when you hold animals beyond normal marketing weights. Interest rates alone add \$1.50 a week for each market weight steer worth \$700.

add 1--ag outlook information

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"It's human nature to refrain from selling on a declining market," Hasbargen says. "This price-oriented management response results in discounts on overweight animals, an increase in the total meat supply, and a decrease in the sellers' bargaining positions."

In other words, a producer can make best use of outlook information by taking into account the costs of different selling options as well as the prices received.

High Price vs. Low Risk

Two other goals often in conflict are maximizing price and minimizing risk. Deciding how much of the production should be held for a better price depends on the producer's financial condition.

"How much do you need to sell in order to cover your cash flow costs?" Hasbargen asks. "Perhaps you should accept an 'average' price expectation (based on outlook information) on enough livestock to cover cash flow expenses. Once these are paid, you can afford to risk a downturn should it occur while you wait for a better price."

The producer who wants minimal risk should price his livestock at levels equal to or slightly above the average outlook price for the marketing period. The price maximizing producer, on the other hand should price supplies in increments only as the market moves above the average outlook price. By following this principle most of the 1979 cattle production would have been priced by mid April. Much of the 1979 crop production would have been priced by late June. The seller should always remember that the higher the market climbs, the greater are the odds for a drop.

Hasbargen summarizes: "Outlook information is an important ingredient in making marketing decisions. To use it effectively crop and livestock producers should price their products rather than sell them. Their major goal should be attaining the highest profit, not the highest price. Lower prices must often be accepted by highly-financed producers who cannot handle the risk involved in waiting for better prices."

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Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Paul Hasbargen 612/373-0714  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney 612/373-0714

NEXT YEAR: SHOULD YOU CONTINUE  
NORMAL HOG, CATTLE PRODUCTION?

The hog barn should probably be filled again next year, even though low pork prices may prevent the producer from covering all short and long-run expenses.

"Hog producers should, in most cases, continue normal production schedules," says University of Minnesota extension farm management specialist Paul Hasbargen. "Variable costs such as feed and other direct cash expenses will likely be covered in most operations, even though long-run fixed costs and labor costs will not."

He adds, "On the other hand, if the producer has been looking for an opportunity to clean out some disease problems or remodel facilities, the coming months are just the time to be out of production without suffering much farm income loss."

Producers should also reduce normal replacement numbers if projected returns do not cover feed and other cash costs.

For cattle feeders, the outlook situation seems to encourage filling feedlots to capacity. "If beef producers can buy at today's depressed feeder prices, and expect to sell (or forward price) at the currently optimistic 1980 choice steer forecasts, they should squeeze as many head as possible into their feedlots," Hasbargen says.

As a general rule, the best time to expand production is when projected returns are greater than total costs--both variable and fixed. Hasbargen cautions that a futures market quotation is not a sound basis for projecting an individual's cash flow or his net income, unless he contracts ahead.

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Will Anthony 612/373-1093  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney 612/373-0714

TRANSPORTATION BRIEFS. . .

Duluth Strike Losses: Although losses incurred by grain producers because of the Duluth grain handlers strike cannot be precisely quantified, they are likely to fall into three categories. University of Minnesota extension economist Will Anthony outlines three types of short-run losses:

1. Country elevators have high interest charges on the grain inventories they cannot move. If that grain is still not moved when harvest is underway, there will be added costs of either new storage construction or potential grain spoilage from being piled on the ground.

2. The rerouting of grain through Twin City river terminals adds downward pressure on grain prices at these markets.

3. Transportation uncertainty means that country grain buyers have difficulty planning their deliveries. They are likely to take some price protection, lowering prices at terminal and country markets.

\* \* \* \*

The Transportation "Big Picture": Losses incurred by grain producers due to transportation problems cannot be blamed solely on the Duluth grain handlers strike, says University of Minnesota extension economist Will Anthony. The truckers' strike earlier this summer and ongoing problems with deteriorating railroad service are causing losses that should not be lumped together with the Duluth strike.

Upper Midwest wheat and sunflower producers depend heavily on the Port of Duluth for export trade. Other commodity producers, especially corn and soybean growers, are more dependent on river terminals and are not as directly affected by the Duluth strike.

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
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Source: Harold Scholten 612/373-0844  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney 612/373-0714

PLAN NOW FOR 1980  
SHELTERBELT PLANTING

Now is the time to prepare soil and control weeds on land intended for shelterbelt planting next spring, says University of Minnesota extension forester Harold Scholten.

If the planting site is covered with tall weeds or quack grass, an herbicide should be used before plowing. Scholten recommends the herbicide glyphosate (trade name: Roundup) be used to kill weeds already present.

"Give Roundup two-three weeks to do the job," Scholten says. "When all weeds are dead, plow them under. Roundup only kills plants already up, however. Weed seeds in the soil will germinate and sprout next spring."

Keeping the site worked up this fall will reduce weed competition during the next season. The major factor in poor tree survival and growth is weed competition for water and nutrients.

The next step in shelterbelt planning is to decide which species of trees to plant, arrangement of species, and the amount of space needed between various species. Planting stock should be ordered as soon as these decisions are made to insure that trees will be available next spring.

Sources of trees include private nurseries, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) nurseries and the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Order blanks for DNR stock will be available the first week in September.

More information on shelterbelt planning is available from county extension offices, the SCS district conservationist in your county and from state extension foresters.

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Writer: Jack Sperbeck 612/373-0715  
Sources: Howard Bissonnette 612/373-0937  
Herb Johnson

WHITE MOLD DISEASE  
FOUND ON SOYBEANS

White mold, a fungus disease of primary concern on sunflowers and dry beans, has been found in soybean fields in west central Minnesota.

As of Sept. 7, the disease had been identified in five soybean fields in Grant and Traverse counties. In each case, the soybean field had been planted to sunflowers in previous years and the soybean variety affected was Evans.

There was nearly a total crop loss on one field where 70 percent of the soybean plants were dead or dying. Other fields had varying degrees of damage, starting with early wilting in scattered patches.

"There will probably be additional disease loss on fields that already have the disease," say Howard Bissonnette and Herb Johnson, extension plant pathologists at the University of Minnesota. They say there's a good chance that more fields in the state's sunflower and soybean growing areas are affected.

"At this late date there isn't much you can do to stop the disease or slow it up. The fungicide Benlate has been used to control white mold on dry beans. It's also cleared for use on soybeans. In future years it may be possible to use Benlate to control white mold on soybeans."

The white mold fungus builds up in the soil where sunflowers or dry beans are grown in fields on successive years. Once the fungus builds up in the soils, it persists for long periods of time and creates continuing disease problems.

Bissonnette and Johnson recommend that farmers grow sunflowers on a field only once every four or five years, or every three years at most.

First symptoms of soybean plants affected with white mold are single wilted or dying plants, scattered throughout the field or in small patches. Dead or dying plants have bleached spots on stems and leaves. Black, hard spots may be found on both the outside and inside of dead and dying plants.

Anyone suspecting white mold disease is asked to contact their county extension office.

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University of Minnesota  
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Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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SOURCE: Isabel Wolf (612) 376-3401  
WRITER: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

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### HOW TO PRESERVE YOUR HARVESTED CABBAGES

Minnesota gardeners apparently are harvesting a bumper crop of cabbages this year, based on the number of telephone calls she's received requesting preservation information, says Isabel Wolf, University of Minnesota extension foods and nutrition specialist.

While this vegetable, so rich in vitamin C, may be stored in a cellar, hung by its roots, or wrapped in several sheets of newspaper and placed in a crate, outdoor pit, trench or buried container, there are several other ways of preserving cabbage for later use, Wolf says.

"One of the most popular ways to preserve cabbage is to make sauerkraut," Wolf says. "The sauerkraut may be canned or frozen. For full details, ask for extension Fact Sheet 27, Making Fermented Pickles and Sauerkraut, at your local County Extension Office."

Wolf does not recommend canning fresh cabbage, because it can develop a strong off-flavor and often turns a brownish color. However, freezing cabbage is a good solution if your family doesn't care for sauerkraut, she says. Frozen cabbage is not suitable for use in cole slaw or salads, but is fine for making soups, hot dishes and cooked cabbage.

To freeze cabbage, select solid, green heads with crisp leaves. Wash, and discard the coarse outer leaves, and cut the head into thin wedges or shred rather coarsely. Scald the wedges about three minutes; shreds should be blanched about one-and-a-half minutes. Cool, drain and package in plastic bags or containers. Seal, label and freeze.

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GARMP

add one--harvested cabbage

Here's another way to freeze cabbage:

**FREEZER COLE SLAW**

Shred six quarts cabbage and add one teaspoon of salt. Let stand one hour.

Boil: one cup vinegar, 1/2 cup water, two cups sugar, one teaspoon mustard seed, 1/2 teaspoon celery seed. Set aside to cool.

Shred one-half cup of the following: carrots, onions, celery, green pepper, red bell pepper.

Mix all ingredients together and let stand about 20 minutes before packing. Pack into containers, leaving a half-inch headspace. Seal, label and freeze immediately. Keeps for six months.

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

WRITER: Jack Sperbeck (612) 373-0715

AG OUTLOOK BRIEFS...

(The following items are condensed from Ag. Outlook, a University of Minnesota bulletin published as a special insert in the Sept. 15, 1979 issue of The Farmer magazine. Authors of the publication are agricultural economists with the University's Agricultural Extension Service)

Inflation and Agriculture. Inflation causes farmers to pay more for the supplies--or inputs--they need to produce food. But the way inflation affects the value of the dollar in international money markets can have a more sizable effect on agriculture.

Inflation can be good or bad for agriculture, depending how policymakers respond to the problem. Surprisingly, what is good for the dollar is not necessarily good for agriculture.

If changes in the value of the dollar reflect only differences in the inflation rate, changes in the exchange rate would have little effect on the economy. But if inflation is viewed by others as a loss of control of the economy by U.S. policymakers, other countries may shift their reserves out of dollars into other currencies. This would cause the dollar to fall by more than the inflation rate. This would stimulate our exports, including farm exports.

However, tight money policies to bring inflation under control can cause other countries to shift their reserves into dollars. A rise in the value of the dollar would make our agricultural exports less competitive abroad and cause a slackening in foreign demand.

\* \* \* \*

Land Inflation. Inflation--and anticipation of continued inflation--has driven up land prices even faster than the general inflation rate. Inflation expectations are bid into land prices as farmers and others try to protect their

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add one--ag outlook

wealth by investing in real property. This increases the wealth of those who already own land. But it decreases the annual return rate in land relative to current interest costs and increases the cash flow crunch on current land purchases. This makes it difficult for young farmers to buy a farm.

\* \* \* \*

Trade Negotiations. Two important things emerged from the recently completed Tokyo Round of trade negotiations. First, the fact that they were completed in the face of strong protectionist views is a major accomplishment. This has at least temporarily stopped our slide into protectionism.

Secondly, for the first time in the post-World War II period, there were some good things in the negotiations for agriculture. Direct benefits to agriculture will be relatively small initially, but it's hard to assess the final impact of particular concessions.

\* \* \* \*

Ag. Policy. The current outlook is that commodity programs for 1980 will involve no set-aside. If this happens, the administration will probably go to Congress for special legislation establishing new target prices. If farm prices fall next year, the administration will probably respond by increasing farmer-held reserves, possibly with some increases in storage payments.

\* \* \* \*

Farm Income. The 1979 U.S. net farm income will probably be close to \$30 billion. That's \$3 billion below the record 1973 year, when the dollar was worth more. Off-farm earnings of farm people will be above last year's record of \$34 billion. Farm family incomes vary widely by type of farm, farm size, management level, debt position, local weather and off-farm earnings.

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add two--ag outlook

In the coming year, beef and dairy farmers can expect another excellent year. Wheat and feed grain producers have good price and income prospects. However, hog and poultry producers face reduced earnings as increased supplies depress these commodity prices below product costs.

Generally, the income outlook looks very good for well-managed, fulltime family farms in 1980. However, low-volume, high debt-load operations will probably find that costs will increase as fast or faster than gross incomes.

\* \* \* \*

More Credit? Farm management records show that more credit isn't necessarily the answer for farmers with low business volume and low management ability. According to Agrifax Statistics, published by the St. Paul Farm Credit District in April, 1979, three-fourths of the 22 dairy farmers who spent more than 25 percent of their production on interest payments failed to cover all costs. This compared to only 3 percent of the 914 dairy farmers who spent less than 11 percent of their gross production on interest.

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USDA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON  
PROPOSED 'JUNK FOOD' BAN

The public has 30 additional days to comment on a proposal which would limit the sale of so-called "junk foods" or competitive foods in schools until after the last school lunch period.

The deadline was extended from Sept. 6 to Oct. 6 to permit all interested persons to submit comments, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The USDA developed a proposal in response to a 1977 amendment to the National School Lunch Act, which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to regulate the sale of foods which compete with school meals. An earlier proposal last December was withdrawn in order to conduct more research on the matter.

The current proposal would limit the sale of any food that does not have at least five percent of the U.S. recommended daily allowance for any one of the eight specified nutrients.

Foods such as carbonated beverages, chewing gum, water ices and some candies could not be sold until after the end of the last school lunch period of each day, under the current proposal. Foods containing five percent or more per serving or per 100 calories of any of the eight nutrients--protein, vitamin A, ascorbic acid, niacin, riboflavin, thiamin, calcium and iron--could be sold any time during the day.

If approved by the USDA, the proposed ban would go into effect Jan. 1, 1980 and would affect schools serving federally subsidized lunches, roughly 98 percent of the nation's public schools.

Interested parties should send comments to Margaret Glavin, Director of the School Programs Division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250.

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Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel, (612) 373-0710  
September 10, 1979

Immediate release  
Writer: Sherri Johnson (612) 376-1537

### ENERGY SHORTAGE CAUSES TEXTILE, CLOTHING PRICE INCREASES

As a result of an oil supply shortage in the United States, the price of many clothing and household textile products is increasing, reports Sherri Johnson, University of Minnesota extension textiles specialist.

Most of the manmade fibers, such as acrylic, nylon polyester, olefin and spandex, come from petrochemical bases. Manufacturers have stockpiled some petrochemicals to prevent immediate shortages of raw materials.

"But the cost of the fibers will continue to go up with the rising price of oil and the fierce competition for oil-based products," Johnson says. "Other causes of rising prices for textile products are energy costs associated with the manufacturing process and the increasing cost of transportation."

Natural fibers, such as cotton and wool, have also been affected by the energy crunch. Petrochemicals are used in the preparation, processing and manufacturing of natural fibers in a fabric. Transportation costs also contribute to rising prices.

"During a two-week period this past spring, the mill price of wool rose 10 to 14 percent," Johnson says. "Even so, some woolen manufacturers have sold all the wool they can produce through fall."

To fight rising prices, consumers should shop carefully and look for classic, basic clothes which may be worn for several seasons, Johnson says. Recycling garments that haven't been worn for a season or two is also a money saver.

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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SOURCE: Dottie Goss (612) 373-0914  
WRITER: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781  
Immediate release

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WHEN  
SHOPPING BY MAIL

Although shopping by mail is a good way to conserve expensive gasoline, when you order and pay for items by mail, you run a chance of not receiving your merchandise. Knowing your rights and the regulations enforced by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the U.S. Postal Service on mail order businesses can help if a problem arises, according to Dottie Goss, University of Minnesota extension family resource management specialist.

If the company has no shipment date stated in the catalog or advertisement, shipment must be made within 30 days. If for some reason the firm can't meet the deadline it must inform you of such and offer you two options: a continued waiting period or a refund.

"If you choose a refund, the firm must send it within seven days," Goss says. "If the sale is on credit, the firm has one billing cycle to adjust the account. Some goods and services are not covered by these rules, such as photo finishing, magazines, seeds, plants, COD orders and negative option orders."

Goss explains that negative option orders are plans where the buyer sends back a notification that he or she doesn't want a product. If a notice isn't sent, the product arrives automatically. Book and record clubs are the most common examples.

Apart from these plans, if you receive unsolicited goods in the mail, they're yours to keep and you needn't pay for them, Goss says.

If you don't receive the merchandise you ordered, Goss has one word of simple advice: write.

"First write the company and try to get redress," she says. "If this is unsuccessful, write to the FTC in Washington (zipcode 20580) or the regional office at Suite 1437, 55 East Monroe St., Chicago, Ill., 60603. Finally, you should contact your local post office to initiate complaint procedures."

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
September 10, 1979

Source: Wayne Carlson (612) 373-0799  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

#### COUNTY 4-H'ER COMPETES IN STATE 4-H HORSE SHOW

Approximately 300 4-H'ers from across the state provided the action at the 1979 State 4-H Horse Show and Judging Contest, held in the coliseum on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds Sept. 16-18.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4-H'er \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ County participated in the show, according to \_\_\_\_\_ County Agent \_\_\_\_\_. "\_\_\_\_\_ 4-H'er \_\_\_\_\_ was eligible for the show because \_\_\_\_\_," \_\_\_\_\_ says. "He/She won in the following classes: \_\_\_\_\_."

Minnesota 4-H'ers competed in halter showmanship, horsemanship, western and English pleasure classes, reining classes, barrel racing, egg and spoon, pole weaving, hunter equitation over fences and English equitation.

"And for the first time there was a horse bowl," \_\_\_\_\_ says. "The contest, held Sunday afternoon, allowed 4-H'ers enrolled in the horse project to demonstrate their knowledge of equine related subject matter in a competitive setting. The horse bowl provided an educational experience for participants and spectators alike."

All 4-H members competing in the State 4-H Horse Show must be at least 11 years old and currently enrolled in the 4-H horse project. They represented the more than 6,000 4-H horse project members in the state of Minnesota.

4-H Youth Development is a program of the \_\_\_\_\_ county office of the University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service.

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Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
September 11, 1979

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8/12/79  
SOURCE: Juanita Reed (612) 373-1083  
WRITER: Cori Scarbnick " 373-1781

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### 4-H MARKET LIVESTOCK SHOW SET FOR SEPT. 17-19

Minnesota 4-H'ers are preparing their livestock and poultry for the 61st annual State 4-H Market Livestock Show Sept. 17-19 at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, St. Paul.

#### MONDAY'S EVENTS:

Teams from 12 Minnesota counties will compete in the 4-H Meats Judging Contest, with the top team going to the National Meats Judging Contest in Kansas City. Trophies are awarded to the top team and individuals.

Live poultry and rabbit judging starts at 2:30 p.m. in the beef barn. Animals will be dressed by their 4-H owners and returned Tuesday for carcass evaluation.

#### TUESDAY'S EVENTS:

Swine judging begins at 8:30 a.m. in the swine barn. Sheep judging begins at 8:50 a.m. in the sheep ring. That afternoon, the grand champion lamb and swine will be named, the Rate of Gain winners will be announced. The showmanship contest for sheep and swine begins at 1:45 p.m. in the swine barn.

#### WEDNESDAY'S EVENTS:

Beef judging begins at 8:20 a.m. in the Coliseum. Poultry judging begins at 10 a.m. in the Andrew Boss Meats Laboratory, on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. About 1:15 p.m., Rate of Gain winners, the herdsman award and the grand champion steer will be announced.

-more-

add one--4-H market livestock .

A public auction sponsored by the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association begins at 3 p.m. in the Swine Barn arena. This sale features selected top exhibits in the beef, swine, sheep, poultry and rabbit classes. About 60 to 70 of the more than 600 exhibits will be auctioned.

All animals exhibited in the State 4-H Market Livestock Show will be slaughtered and carcass evaluation will be made on each. Donors may not acquire a specific animal for promotion purposes nor home consumption. All exhibitors receive market price for their animals based on carcass value.

4-H Youth Development is a program of the University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service.

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
September 17, 1979

SOURCE: Dottie Goss (612) 373-0914  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

#### EXERCISE CAUTION WHEN BUYING GAS-SAVING DEVICES

"Stretch gasoline up to four extra miles per gallon!"

"100 extra miles from every single tankful!"

"I bought a brand-X gas-saving device and saved \$28 last month in gas bills!"

These claims pertain to the myriad of gas-saving devices heavily advertised as offering great savings to consumers at little cost. But do the devices live up to these claims?

Dottie Goss, a University of Minnesota extension family resource management specialist says not always. "Not one of these devices tested by the government has shown it can achieve the promised result," Goss says, "although not all have been tested by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)."

Some of the devices add air to the fuel mixture which can cause engine misfiring especially in late model cars, which have the carburetor set for a maximum amount of air to be burned with fuel, Goss says. This factor, added to the cost of the device itself, should make consumers cautious when buying a gas-saving device.

"Don't depend on testimonials in advertisements, because there are too many variables that affect gas mileage to make these an accurate measure of quality," Goss says. "Do look for a reference in the ad to dynamometer testing of the device according to EPA procedures, which is a critical test. Neither the EPA nor the government has endorsed any of these devices as increasing gas mileage, and any ad citing this type of claim should be viewed with caution."

- more -

add 1--gas saving devices

Consumers may write to the company marketing the product and request a copy of its test results before making any purchase. Copies of the EPA's findings may be obtained by writing to EPA, 2565 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48105.

"If you've already purchased a gas-saving device and are not satisfied, contact the company first," Goss advises. "Most offer a money-back guarantee. If you don't receive a refund, or wish to make a complaint, contact: Consumer Protection Division, Attorney General's Office, State Capitol, St. Paul, Minn.

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Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
September 17, 1979

SOURCE: Robert Aherin (612) 373-0764  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

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#### SAFETY IMPORTANT WHEN USING AEROSOL CANS

Pressurized aerosol cans can be quite dangerous if misused, says Robert Aherin, University of Minnesota extension safety specialist. If improperly handled, they may explode, ignite, cause health problems or chemical burns.

"Never throw an aerosol can into a fire or store them near a heat source such as a radiator or space heater," Aherin says. "Aerosol cans should be stored in a cool area because they may explode at 120 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. It's best to keep them out of the sun or closed automobiles in very hot weather."

Puncturing an aerosol can, even if it appears to be empty, is very dangerous, Aherin says, because a puncture could cause an explosion. "Some products claim to be safe mechanisms for puncturing aerosol cans. The Consumer Safety Commission says the procedures for using them are rather complicated and can be dangerous if not carefully followed."

Some propellents, such as propane, are highly flammable and will burn like a blowtorch if ignited.

Aherin recommends using aerosols in well-ventilated rooms because propellents such as vinyl chloride can be toxic. After inhaling large quantities of aerosol sprays, some people have shown signs of dizziness, lack of coordination, nausea, headaches or blurred vision. In some cases, some have died as a result of inhalation. In addition, aerosols have been known to cause heart and respiratory problems and skin reactions.

"Children are often the victims of chemical burns caused by misusing aerosol cans," Aherin says. "Sprays should be kept out of their reach. It's a good idea to teach your children about aerosol dangers."

Aherin encourages aerosol users to follow these tips:

- Read instructions and warning statements carefully before using an aerosol.
- Avoid skin exposure to sprays and wash thoroughly after spraying, especially with insecticides.
- At first sign of dizziness, nausea, headaches or other problems, contact a physician.
- Don't use aerosols around food products.

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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SOURCE: Lois Goering (612) 376-1536  
WRITER: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

#### PLAIDS: THE POPULAR FALL CLASSIC

The return to more woven fabrics and the popularity of wool in fall fashion make plaids seem like a classic choice this season, says Lois Goering, University of Minnesota extension textiles specialist.

Before buying a plaid fabric, study its effect on your figure by holding it up in front of a mirror, Goering suggests. Keep the size of the plaid design in scale with your figure.

"Make sure all the patterns are the same size and are evenly woven," Goering says. "One pattern repeat should be the same as the next. If the fabric has a durable press finish, make sure its been finished on grain. Open out the fabric, laying it on the edge of a cutting table. Corners should be square."

Goering suggests you choose a simple pattern with few seamlines to minimize matching. If the pattern doesn't give yardage for using plaids, allow about one-fourth to one-half yard extra for small to medium-size plaids and about one-half to one yard for large-size plaids.

"Plaid fabrics must be pre-shrunk; if this step isn't taken, you may have problems later on with matching," Goering says. "If the fabric is washable, run it through the clothes washer as you plan to launder it. If not, send it to a dry cleaners, where the fabric can be steam-shrunk."

Before placing the pattern pieces, look at the fabric to see if it is an even or balanced plaid or an uneven or unbalanced plaid. An even plaid has the same lines on the left and right and the same line above and below the dominant line. An uneven plaid is different from left to right or above and below the dominant line.

"More care is needed for matching uneven plaids and beginners should avoid them. Cut all plaids on a single layer for greater accuracy," she says.



add 1--sewing with plaids

Plaids should be matched at the stitching line, rather than the cutting line. Underarm seams should be matched below the underarm bust dart, rather than above. Sleeves should be matched to the bodice front, not the back.

"If you have a rolling or walking presser foot, this will help keep the fabrics matched," Goering says. "The presser foot works with the feed dogs to pull the top and bottom of the fabric through at the same rate."

It's very important to have correct presser foot pressure regardless of the fabric's weight. Pressure is wrong if the presser foot pushes the top layer through ahead of the bottom layer, Goering says. This may be checked by running equal-length scrap material through the machine. If the top layer comes out longer than the bottom, you'll need to loosen pressure. Pressure is too loose if the fabric doesn't guide through the machine well, shifting back and forth. "Loose pressure makes it quite difficult to sew a straight seam," Goering says.

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Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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SOURCE: George Marx (218) 281-6510

WRITER: Kathy Chesney (612) 373-0714

POLE BARN ADEQUATE,  
CHEAPER, FOR RAISING  
HEIFERS IN COLD CLIMES

The conventional pole barn wins the economics test in a contest with the climate-controlled, insulated confinement barn for raising replacement dairy heifers in northern Minnesota.

George Marx, dairy scientist for the University of Minnesota, came to that conclusion after a four-year test involving 172 heifers at the Northwest Experiment Station near Crookston.

"Both facilities were satisfactory for growing dairy heifer replacement cattle," Marx reported. "Even though feed costs were lower with the confinement barn, its original cost and higher energy costs made it more expensive in the long run." The 1974 construction costs were \$40,800 for the confinement barn and \$19,400 for the pole unit.

The confinement slatted-floor building with manure pit and the open-sided pole barn were equally satisfactory for growing heifers for breeding purposes. Reproductive performance and animal health were similar in both units.

Feed efficiency was lower in the pole barn, costing an extra \$9.10 per animal each year. The total labor requirement, however, was nearly equal. Animals in the confinement barn required about 37 minutes of labor daily, while the pole barn herd needed only 33.5 minutes. The confinement housing used an automated center-line feed bunk system that required five more minutes per day for unloading and feeding than the outside fence-line bunk system for the other herd. There were 21 heifers in each barn on the average.

Heifers were introduced to the buildings at 9-12 months of age. All animals were fed once daily. They all received a forage diet consisting of haylage or silage and trace mineral salt supplemented with calcium and phosphorus. No grain was fed and animals maintained good body conditions. "This study demonstrated systems of sound management with two different housing methods suitable for northern climates," Marx concluded.

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
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Immediate release

MINNESOTA DAIRY GOAT  
MEETING SCHEDULED

American dairy goat veterinarian Sam Gus will keynote the Second Annual Dairy Goat Conference on Nov. 10 at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

Topics at the conference will include talks on the reproduction management of dairy goats and herd health care. Additional information on selecting dairy goats, developing a herd health program and advice for beginning dairy goat raisers will be provided.

The dairy goat conference aims at helping dairy goat farmers develop a herd management system and a profitable marketing system.

Gus will speak on "Herd Health and Breeding - International Comparisons," "Reproduction Management," and "Managing Your First Goat - Pitfalls That Lead to Poor Health."

Gus is a doctor of veterinary medicine and professor emeritus of Veterinary Science - Extension at Penn State University. He is currently president of the American Association of Sheep and Goat Practitioners and author of "Management and Diseases of Dairy Goats."

The Second Annual Dairy Goat Conference is aimed at dairy goat farmers from Minnesota and surrounding states plus extension agents, veterinarians, Vo-Ag instructors and others interested in dairy goat management. Specialists in the dairy goat field will be present to answer audience questions.

The University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service and the Office of Special Programs in cooperation with the Minnesota Dairy Goat Association are sponsoring the conference.

Registration is \$11 per person and \$4 for each additional family member. 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, 405 Coffey Hall, 1420 Eckles Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108.

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and Agricultural Journalism  
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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Editor: Jack Sperbeck (612) 373-0715  
Source: Paul Hasbargen (612) 373-1145

BEEF OUTLOOK BRIEFS...

Price Outlook. Choice slaughter steer prices are expected to increase again from September to January. Cattle on feed numbers are down, suggesting fed cattle marketings of nearly 10 percent under year earlier levels by the end of 1979. And yearling feeder supplies are also down by eight or nine percent, according to Paul Hasbargen extension farm management specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Feeder cattle prices are also likely to strengthen. This is especially true for heavier feeders since their numbers are low and feed grain prices appear likely to drop further into harvest. Therefore, choice yearlings will go into southern Minnesota feedlots at prices in excess of \$80 per hundred during the fourth quarter. Steer calves will cost over a dollar per pound.

\* \* \* \*

Cow Herd Expansion? Cow herd rebuilding is under way. On July 1, beef cow owners reported keeping eight percent more replacement heifers. And culling rates continue to run about one-third under 1978 levels.

This drop in cow slaughter has been the biggest factor in the 12 percent drop in beef production this year, says Paul Hasbargen, extension farm management specialist at the University of Minnesota. Indications are that beef supplies will bottom out during the next 12 month period before starting to pick up again next fall. Therefore, this period is likely to be the year of highest prices and highest returns to feeder cattle producers.

This (1979) is the second good year for cow-calf operators. There should be at least two or three more good years before prices drop again under pressure from expanded production. Choice steer calves will remain near the \$1 per pound level during this period. So additional cows during the next few years will give good returns.

add 1--beef outlook briefs

However, starting in 1981, the real price of calves will drop. (Even though the nominal feeder price stays near \$1, if the dollar is worth 10 percent less, the real price of calves drops to 90 cents.) For people planning expansion of the cow herd--or starting a new one--Hasbargen suggests using a planning price of about \$80 on steer calves and \$70 on heifer calves for a longer period of five to seven years. These prices should be used along with current production costs. For detailed estimates of typical production costs and returns, see the recently updated Beef Cow Herd Planning Guide. Copies are available from your county extension director.

# # # #

Overwintering Calves. Cow-yearling programs have been even more profitable than cow-calf programs the past two years, according to Paul Hasbargen, extension farm management specialist at the University of Minnesota. This usually happens at the stage of the cattle cycle after cow numbers drop and feeder prices show their cyclical sharp increases.

Calf overwintering programs have been very profitable the past two years--showing returns over feed and cash costs of close to \$100 per head each year. For the coming winter, returns to this program can be expected to drop to near the average of the past 30 years. This would mean a return of only a few dollars per head on calves overwintered on hay alone (gaining about a half pound per day) up to a return of about \$35 per head on calves fed to gain one and a half pounds per day.

Additional feed and facility investments are likely to produce higher returns in cow-calf operations for the next three to five years, opposed to cow-yearling programs. But after the next cattle number buildup and the subsequent cattle price break in about 1985, the cow-yearling program will again be more profitable for several years in the mid to late 1980's.

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and Agricultural Journalism  
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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
September 17, 1979

Writer: Jack Sperbeck (612) 373-0715

Source: Dr. Clarence Stowe (612) 373-1808

### WATCH DRUG WITHHOLDING TIMES CLOSELY!

The new antibiotic residue monitoring program for cull dairy cows in Minnesota makes it even more important to heed withdrawal times on labels, according to Dr. Clarence Stowe, University of Minnesota veterinarian.

The program is called STOP, an acronym for Swab Test On Premises, and is administered by USDA's Food Safety and Quality Service.

Kidneys are taken from slaughtered animals and tested for drug residues. This is currently being done at three slaughter plants in Minnesota but will expand to more plants in the future.

If the kidney test is positive, more specific tests on liver and muscle tissue are done at regional USDA laboratories. If only the organs are positive, they're discarded. But if muscle shows antibiotic residues, the entire carcass is condemned.

Dairy farmers who shipped antibiotic-condemned cattle are required to notify the slaughter station of all future shipments until several groups of animals test negative. Continued violations could result in criminal charges.

From three to 10 percent of dairy cows sent to slaughter over the past several years showed positive swab tests, according to USDA studies. The most frequently identified antibiotic has been streptomycin (or dihydro-streptomycin), followed by neomycin, penicillin, tetracyclines and erythromycin.

If you're considering treating a cow that you suspect may have to go to slaughter, you may want to consider drugs with shorter withholding times, such as penicillin. Withholding times on penicillin can be as low as five days depending on the preparation. If she doesn't recover, you don't have to wait 30 days to send her to slaughter like you'd have to if you used streptomycin.

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Isabel Wolf (612) 376-3401  
Leonard Hertz (612) 373-0113

Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

FOOD STORAGE BRIEFS...

One bad apple can spoil the bunch: Avoid storing apples too long and check for signs of spoilage often: mustiness can spread to other produce, says Isabel Wolf, University of Minnesota extension foods specialist. Select late maturing apples, such as Haralson, Regent, Fireside or Honeygold, that are hard, mature and in perfect condition. Apples picked too green will spoil quickly; apples picked beyond maturity will become overripe in storage.

Most apple varieties store best at about 34 degrees Fahrenheit, 90 percent relative humidity. Placing apples in plastic bags or wrapping them in tissue or newspaper will maintain high humidity, Wolf says. Leonard Hertz, extension horticulturist, recommends storing small to medium amounts of apples in the refrigerator in plastic bags. The bag should be loosely closed, or you may punch a couple holes in the bag for air exchange. "The bag will prevent fruit dehydration," Hertz says.

Apples may be stored outside in insulated boxes, strawline and pits or buried containers as long as the outside temperature is above 10 degrees Fahrenheit.

\* \* \* \*

Green tomatoes can ripen indoors: Mature, green to slightly pink tomatoes can be stored up to two months, according to Isabel Wolf, extension foods and nutrition specialist. Late or long-growing varieties are best for storing. Sort tomatoes according to ripeness and spread on a rack, covering them with newspaper to maintain darkness and retain moisture. Every week, remove ripe fruit, discarding any that are spoiled. "You can also bring in tomatoes right on the vine," Wolf says. "Hang in a cool place away from direct sunlight. At 65 degrees Fahrenheit, tomatoes should ripen in about two weeks. At 55 degrees Fahrenheit, they'll ripen in three to four weeks. Storing tomatoes below 50 degrees Fahrenheit will cause them to spoil."

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and Agricultural Journalism  
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Writer: Jack Sperbeck (612) 373-0715  
Source: Vern Ruttan (612) 376-3560

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ADTP

SCIENCE ARTICLE SAYS AG RESEARCH UNDERVALUED

Despite annual returns in the 50 percent range, agricultural research is "undervalued" by both farmers and consumers, according to a recent article in Science magazine.

There are two reasons why Americans continue undervaluing agricultural research and fail to increase its investment. One reason is "spill-over;" research paid for by one state spills across state lines and helps farmers in other states who don't pay for the research.

Secondly, benefits to consumers are portioned into such small amounts that individual consumers can't feel the connection.

Farm producers may retain a relatively large share of the gains from agricultural research when demand for food is growing rapidly, as when overseas markets are expanding.

But if demand is growing slowly--the case in the U.S. for most of the last 50 years--a large share of the gains in agricultural research will be passed on to consumers in the form of lower food prices.

But individual consumers receive only a small share of the benefits from increased farm productivity. As a result, consumers have tended to support agricultural research only when food prices rise rapidly.

Authors of the Sept. 24 Science article are Robert E. Evenson, Yale University; Paul E. Waggoner, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; and Vernon W. Ruttan, University of Minnesota.

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
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Source: "1980 AgOutlook"  
The Farmer, Sept. 15, 1979

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COMMODITY PRICE BRIEFS...

Corn: "There is a great possibility that the actual corn crop will be less than the August (U.S. Department of Agriculture) estimate, so expect a 2.5 cent per bushel price increase for each 100 million-bushel reduction in crop size.

"Ending stocks of 900 million to one billion bushels appear to be most likely. This would reduce the carryover on hand going into the year and maybe move corn out of the government reserve. This gives us a somewhat bullish price outlook."

\* \* \* \*

Soybeans: "Based on August supply/use forecasts, terminal soybean market prices are expected to average about \$5.85 during the first nine months of the 1979-80 marketing year. If the actual crop does not reach August forecasts, which is highly likely, or hog and poultry feeding increases, or the Brazilian crop is less than normal, the price will be higher. For each 100 million-bushel reduction in crop size or increase in use, we would expect a 60-65 cent per bushel increase in price. The odds seem to favor some combination of lower yields and higher use that will move price expectations up somewhat in the coming months."

\* \* \* \*

Wheat: "Prices for the 1979-80 marketing year probably will be about 30 percent above 1978-79 because stocks are being reduced. U.S. farm wheat prices are forecast to average about \$4 per bushel. Minneapolis terminal market price (13 percent) now is expected to average about \$4.30 per bushel through spring 1980."

\* \* \* \*

Sunflowers: "Sunflower oil prices are expected to be in the low 30 cents per pound range. This means about 12 cents worth of oil per pound of sunflowers. After subtracting transportation and handling, sunflower prices are expected to average about 10 cents per pound for 1979-80."

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Source: Paul Hasbargen (612) 373-1145  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney (612) 373-0714

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7/23/79

HOG INDUSTRY BRIEFS...

Large Scale Production Trend Strong: Units that produce more than 1,000 hogs annually are gaining a larger share of total production each year. Very few of the three million farmers producing hogs in 1949 marketed more than 1,000 head that year. By 1964, there were only one million producers, but still only seven percent of the hogs came from units with over a 1,000-head output.

"Today there are about 631,000 farms with hogs, and about 40 percent of all production comes from units selling more than 1,000," says University of Minnesota extension agricultural economist Paul Hasbargen. This movement is part of the general trend in agriculture toward fewer, but larger, farming units.

"Our research continues to show that when earning opportunities appear to be better in off-farm jobs, young people take those opportunities rather than start farming," he explains. "In the hog business, we have the strongest declines in hog operation numbers following years of poor hog prices."

Producers who survive the lean years are likely to have a strong desire and high ability to manage a hog business. They are also likely to expand their operations as far as capital and management resources will allow.

\* \* \* \*

Hogs Becoming a Specialty? Hog producers are becoming more specialized and are devoting fewer resources to other livestock, notes University of Minnesota farm management specialist Paul Hasbargen.

"Thirty years ago all farms selling hogs also had other livestock," the economist says. "Two-thirds of these farms still do, but I expect that in another decade this proportion may be cut in half, with only a third of all hog producers keeping another livestock enterprise."

Specialization tends to improve productivity. Thirty years ago it took about six to eight hours of labor to produce one hog. Today that figure is close to four hours. Production units of 1,000 head are doing it for only two hours per hog. "This trend results in higher earnings for producers who become proficient in their specialities," Hasbargen says.

\* \* \* \*

add 1--hog industry briefs

Implications for Minnesota: Large, highly specialized hog production units will be limited to areas of the country that do not discourage them with legal restrictions, says Paul Hasbargen. This trend could cause a decline in Minnesota's share of the hog industry.

"Minnesota, Iowa and the Dakotas all have rather restrictive anti-corporation laws," the University of Minnesota ag economist explains. "These states also have relatively fewer large volume hog producers."

By contrast, large hog units have been expanding quite rapidly in the southeast states where there are no laws prohibiting them from being incorporated.

"If small producers want to discontinue hog production because of higher costs, but constraints on type of business organization, higher tax rates, and restrictive pollution controls prohibit large ones from expanding, Minnesota could lose some of its share of the hog business in the years ahead," Hasbargen concludes.

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Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612)373-0710  
September 24, 1979

Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney (612) 373-0714

SWINE HEALTH BRIEFS...

Manage For Swine Fertility: One of the most financially rewarding efforts a swine herd operator can make is to cut down on management-related fertility problems.

Infertility (small litters, low conception rates and other problems) can be caused by infectious diseases, or it can be brought on by management practices. The veterinarian can deal with the diseases, but the producer must handle the practices. These tips were given at a swine herd health conference at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul recently:

1. The first-litter gilt is the animal most likely to have reproductive difficulties. The producer should avoid adding gilts to his herd if he is already experiencing low conception rates. Although he may be trying to 'fill out the herd,' he is only adding to his problems.

2. Start strict culling of gilts. It can be considered normal to cull 15 percent of the gilt pool for estrous failure by 8½ months of age.

\* \* \* \*

Manage for Pneumonia Control: Pneumonia is becoming an increasingly expensive problem as confinement hog production grows. These management tips were given by researchers and veterinarians at a swine herd health conference at the University of Minnesota recently:

1. Pneumonia is related to pig comfort. Establish a rigorous maintenance program for fans, thermostats, feeders and other equipment.

2. Research shows that pigs mixed with new pen-mates at 100 pounds had more severe lung damage from pneumonia than pigs kept with the same pen-mates through the growing and finishing period. Try to sell complete pens and avoid sorting and mixing.

3. Research also shows that mycoplasmal pneumonia is worsened by feeding of low protein formulations. Each insult to the lung reduces feed conversion efficiency, further reducing protein intake. Consider using a 16 percent finishing ration in herds with severe pneumonia.

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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 24, 1979

Source: Roger Machmeier 612/373-0764  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney 612/373-0714

(Note to agents: The device described here is currently being sold in Minnesota under the brand name Bon Aqua. Lab testing took place at the Waste Management Laboratory in the Department of Agricultural Engineering.)

MAGNETIC WATER  
TREATMENT DEVICE  
CLAIMS UNPROVEN

A device advertised to condition water magnetically appears to cause little change in water quality, test results and observations at the University of Minnesota indicate.

Roger Machmeier, extension agricultural engineer, had the device installed in his home by a sales representative who clamped it to a water pipe. This was done to test claims that the device improves water quality magnetically from outside the pipe.

After several months, samples of water run through the pipe with the device attached, and untreated water from the same private well, were analyzed at a University laboratory. "We saw no difference in the time it took for the water to boil, even though advertising literature for the device claimed 'treated' water would boil sooner," Machmeier reports. "This water performed no better in the soap suds test suggested by the manufacturer's literature than the untreated water."

Machmeier and other observers found no difference in water quality in terms of coffee taste, plant growth or water spotting. Contrary to claims, water run past the device did not reduce lime deposits in toilet flush tanks or on faucets.

"Because I was able to document the device's lack of performance, the salesperson refunded my money when I returned the unit to him," Machmeier adds. "Before purchasing such a device, write down what you want it to do and how you will evaluate it. Be sure to find out exactly how and when you can get your money back if not satisfied. Take the salesperson's reputation into account."

The engineer also suggests that consumers take note if the advertising claims are supported by scientific test results or by testimonials. "Test results can be easily verified, but testimonials cannot," he says.

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
September 24, 1979

Source: Deborah Brown (612) 373-1749  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

HOUSEPLANT BRIEFS...

Houseplants end outdoor summer vacation: When outdoor night temperatures are about the same as indoor temperatures it's time to bring in the houseplants from your yard. In most energy-conscious households that's about 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

"Wash your plants thoroughly before bringing them in," says Deborah L. Brown, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota. "Pay special attention to the undersides of leaves where insects often congregate. If you find insects, isolate the afflicted plants until the problem is under control."

Plants that have put out a flush of new growth should be repotted, Brown says. Remove bits of the old soil, taking care not to expose many roots. Replace with sterile potting soil in a larger container.

"Once the plants are indoors, set them in front of a bright, sunny window," Brown says. "This will minimize the shock of going from the intense outdoor light to much-reduced lighting indoors. Gradually return them to their original spot in your home."

\* \* \* \*

Recycle your garden: If your home has a bright, sunny window, you can root such bedding plants as impatiens, wax begonias and coleus indoors, says Deborah L. Brown, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota.

"Although these are all shade-loving plants outside, once indoors they need as much sunlight as possible or they'll fail to bloom."

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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  
October 1, 1979

Writer: Jack Sperbeck (612) 373-0715

Source: Bob Aherin (612) 373-0764

CHECK HEATING EQUIPMENT  
FOR FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Our grandfathers knew both the hazards and advantages of heating with wood. But their grandchildren ignore many fire safety rules when they switch from conventional heating to wood heating, according to University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Safety Specialist Robert Aherin. "In fact," said Aherin, "we don't even follow safety rules for modern furnaces."

Aherin encourages Minnesotans to take a careful look at all their heating equipment during Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, 1979. "Cooler weather is already upon us, and it won't be long before another Minnesota winter will be giving our stoves, furnaces and heaters a real workout. Now is the best time to check heating equipment."

Aherin offers these heating safety tips to homeowners:

Set wood stoves and portable heaters at least 36 inches from walls or other combustible surfaces, and out of the way of household "traffic."

Burn only dry wood (wood that's been cut and stacked at least a year earlier). "Green" wood will cause creosote to build up in stovepipes and chimneys -- and creosote burns.

Clean all chimneys now, and again later during the heating season. A "dirty" chimney can mean a chimney fire that can spread to a roof, an attic or any adjacent combustible material.

Make sure that burnable materials aren't piling up around furnaces.

Care for all heating units -- make sure they have a supply of fresh air, and that chimneys and vents aren't blocked. If they are, deadly carbon monoxide can filter into a house.

"Even after these fire safety steps have been taken, everyone should have a smoke detector in the home," says University of Minnesota FIRE Center staffer Frank Oberg. "you should also have an escape plan. In case the detector goes off -- if everything else fails -- you'll have time to escape," Oberg adds.

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add 1--houseplant briefs...

Brown recommends taking cuttings from these plants, rather than lifting out the entire plant. Cuttings may be rooted in water, but sturdier, healthier root systems will develop if placed in moist, clean sand or vermiculite.

While your cuttings are taking root, place them in bright but indirect light, Brown says. Keep them evenly moist. Once the cuttings are well-rooted, transfer them to sterile potting soil and move them to a sunnier location. Next summer, they may be placed back in the garden.

\* \* \* \*

Wintering geraniums need special care: Long ago, geraniums could be hung bare-rooted in a cellar and started anew in the spring, but no more: "our basements are not as cool and damp as Grandmother's was," says Deborah Brown, University of Minnesota extension horticulturist. "There are several ways to keep geraniums through the winter for use next spring, some of them requiring more work than others."

You may take cuttings of geraniums and maintain them as houseplants through the winter. "If placed in a sunny window, they may even blossom," she says.

You may also pot up the entire plant, or several plants together, and keep them just barely growing in a basement or attic room where they get some light and very cool, but not freezing, temperatures. "Cut them back, perhaps twice, in the winter so they won't become spindly and elongated. Water only often enough to keep the plants from drying up, which will encourage as little growth as possible," Brown says.

About a month before you plan on setting them outside, trim the geranium plants one last time. Put them into a warmer room with good, bright sun, fertilize and begin watering on a regular basis.

"Remember, the older the geranium, the more prone the plant is to a host of diseases," Brown says. "Be prepared to discard old plants and start again if symptoms arise."

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
October 1, 1979

Source: Gerald Miller 612/373-1181  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney 612/373-0714

PERENNIAL WEED CONTROL BRIEFS...

Canada Thistle: Cool, wet weather make this fall a particularly good time to chemically control Canada thistle, a University of Minnesota extension agronomist says.

"We are having just the kind of weather Canada thistles like," Gerald Miller reports. "They are growing vigorously. This is an excellent time to apply chemicals and get those chemicals moved down into the root system with the food supply. By doing that we're able to kill those underground parts of the plant that would otherwise survive the winter and regrow next spring."

Recommended chemicals include 2,4-D ester or dicamba (Banvel). Miller says the herbicides should be applied to trash-free, vigorous new top-growth. It may be necessary to mow an area and apply chemicals when weeds regrow to 6-10 inches tall. Wait at least ten days after application before tilling the area. For more information, see Extension Bulletin 400, "Cultural and Chemical Weed Control in Field Crops" available at your county extension office.

\* \* \* \*

Quackgrass: This fall may be your best opportunity in years for getting rid of quackgrass, a University of Minnesota extension agronomist says.

"The cool wet weather has promoted vigorous growth in this cool season grass," Gerald Miller reports. "Right now quackgrass is quite susceptible to chemical control."

Glyphosate (Roundup) gives excellent control when sprayed on the fresh foliage of actively growing grass. "It appears expensive, but the cost should be spread over several crop seasons," Miller says. "Glyphosate is not active through the soil and leaves no residue that would injure future crops."

Atrazine also gives good control but should be applied only if corn is to be planted on the field for the next two years. Other crops are likely to be injured. Using atrazine in split applications in fall and spring aids control of annual weeds as well as quackgrass. For more information, see Extension Bulletin 400, "Cultural and Chemical Weed Control in Field Crops" available at your county extension office.

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Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Bob Aherin (612) 373-0764  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney (612) 373-0714

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#### MINNESOTA FARM ACCIDENT SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS "DANGER TIMES"

ST. PAUL--An accident survey that involved 19 counties spread throughout Minnesota shows that a high percentage of injury-causing farm work accidents happen in mid-morning and mid-afternoon.

Safety specialist Bob Aherin concludes that farmers could greatly reduce their risks of injury by taking short rest breaks in the middle of the morning and afternoon work periods. Aherin is the University of Minnesota extension agricultural engineer who coordinated the 1978 survey of nearly 10,000 farm residents on 1,910 farms. He was assisted by 20 county extension offices and 306 volunteers.

"We also found that 70 percent of work-related injuries were either serious, caused permanent damage or were fatal," Aherin says. "Farmers lost 10 work days for each injury on the average."

This was the first time a Minnesota survey showed that wives suffer more injuries while doing farm work than during other activities. About 77 percent of wives' injuries involved farm work, compared to slightly less than 50 percent in a 1970 survey.

"Women tend to work more outside the house than before," Aherin says. "They need training in how to safely handle machinery, animals, tools and chemicals."

A break-down by age showed that the highest injury rate involved those with the least training and experience--children. "It's really sad to find that when you look at the number of hours worked, children between five and fourteen years old have almost twice as many accidents as any other age group," Aherin says.

"This rate could be lower if experienced farm operators spend more time training young workers, or if families use the 4-H and FFA safety programs available."

add one--Minnesota farm safety survey

Livestock producers tended to have the most accidents, while farmers involved in grain and forage production tended to have the most serious injuries. Aherin thinks the trend toward confinement facilities contributed to the more than 14 injuries he found per 100 hog farms. The rate was 13 per 100 farms for dairy and 12 for beef.

Farm machines, which were involved in 30 percent of the accidents, caused the most serious injuries. The 15 percent rate for animal-involved accidents was an increase over past surveys.

"We saw an improvement in the percentage of farmers who are willing to wear safety gear," Aherin reports. "Almost half of them use chemical safety equipment and dust masks. The chemical applicator training sessions conducted the last few years may be better informing farmers."

Hard hats worn during the machinery maintenance and safety shoes worn when handling livestock also improve the odds against accidents.

"We asked each family if anyone had attended a certified first aid training session," the engineer says. "Nearly 60 percent of the families indicated at least one member had been trained. While we were pleased with that figure, we must continue to stress that as many family members as possible should be trained in how to stop severe bleeding, cardiovascular-pulmonary resuscitation and dealing with other life-saving techniques. Distance from medical care makes such training especially important for farm families."

Extension offices supervised the volunteers who surveyed farm families each quarter of 1978. The randomly selected counties represented the state as a whole. An accident was defined as an injury that required professional medical care and/or caused the loss of one-half work day.

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Note: The surveyed counties were Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Polk, Clay, Becker, Todd, Morrison, Benton, Mille Lacs, Carlton, Yellow Medicine, Renville, Brown, Cottonwood, Nicollet, Rice, Steel and Wabasha.

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Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
October 1, 1979

Source: Jeff Coultas 612/373-1181

CHEMICALS AID SOYBEAN,  
SUNFLOWER HARVEST

If soybeans and sunflowers are mature but moisture content and green weeds are preventing harvest, applying specific chemicals could be useful.

"Paraquat CL and sodium chlorate are contact dessicant materials," reports Jeff Coultas, University of Minnesota extension weed specialist. "Using them is economical when killing frosts are not predicted for the near future, green weeds are delaying harvest, or birds are reducing seed yields. A hard frost will produce the same results as these chemical treatments."

Both chemicals are nonselective and nontranslocating. They will not promote crop maturity or kill mature weed seeds. They are effective for stopping further growth of annual weeds and preventing seeds maturity.

For use in soybeans, apply 1/8 to 1/4 lb/acre (1/2 - 1 pt.) Paraquat CL and add 1 quart X-77 nonionic spreader for every 100 gallons of spray. (Use the high rate for cocklebur.) Aerial applications should be made in 2-5 gallons of spray per acre, and ground applications at a rate of 20-40 gal./acre. Application before soybeans are fully developed will reduce yields. Plants should have lost at least one-half their leaves and the remaining leaves should be yellow before treatment. Remove livestock from treated fields 30 days before slaughter and do not pasture livestock within 15 days of treatment.

Paraquat can be used only on oilseed varieties of sunflower and sodium chlorate (Propleaf, Drexel, Defol, Leafex-3) can be used only on confectionary (human and bird consumption) sunflower. Both products should be applied after sunflowers have become physiologically mature; when the bracts have turned brown and the back of the head is yellow. Application before maturity can cause yield reduction and lower seed quality. Apply Paraquat at 1/4 to 1/2 lb/A active ingredient (1-2pt.) with five gallons spray for aerial application or 20-40 gallons spray for ground application. Add one quart X-77 spreader per 100 gallons spray. Do not graze treated areas or feed treated forage to livestock. Harvest approximately 7-21 days following treatment.

Sodium chlorate usually comes as a 3 lb./gal. formulation and should be used at 4.5-6 lb./acre (1-1.5 gallons). Apply in 7-10 gallons of spray aerially or with enough water to give thorough coverage with ground equipment. Sodium chlorate is sold under several trade names, so consult the label to determine the proper rates and procedures for application.

Try to prevent drift to adjacent vegetation. Affected plants will show browning and death of leaf tissue within 48 hours. If drift occurs to crops that will be used for livestock feed, the residue level should be determined chemically before the crop is fed.

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St. Paul, MN 55108  
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(Agents: A brochure is enclosed)

PROPERTY VALUATION  
COURSE SCHEDULED

New state laws relating to property assessment will be one of the topics discussed at a property valuation short course scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_ (location) on \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

Remodeling of rural farm houses, grading of residential property and tax issues in Minnesota are scheduled program topics.

Any interested citizen is invited. The fee for attendance at the first day of the event is \$9.

Succeeding second and third day programs are scheduled for assessors, deputy assessors, and realtors.

More information is available from the \_\_\_\_\_ County Extension Office or the county assessors office. The meeting is open to everyone regardless of race, creed, color, age, sex or origin.

# # # #

Dates & Locations:

- Hibbing Community College, November 7
- American Legion, Thief River Falls, November 8
- Holiday Inn, Fergus Falls, November 9
- Holiday Inn, St. Cloud, November 12
- Willmar Community College, November 13
- Ramada Inn, Marshall, November 14
- Suburban Hennepin AVTI, Eden Prairie, November 15
- Holiday Inn South, Rochester, November 16

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and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
October 1, 1979

Writer: Jack Sperbeck (612) 373-0715  
Source: Jim Linn (612) 373-1014

### SWEET CORN SILAGE FOR DAIRY CATTLE

Sweet corn crops not used by the canning industry can make good silage, according to Jim Linn, extension dairy specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Whole sweet corn plants can be made into a good silage by following proper harvesting and storing methods for regular corn silage. The best dry matter for ensiling will be between 32 and 38 percent.

Silages harvested at a lower dry matter content will result in liquid seepage from the silo. To assure proper dry matter at harvesting, plant moisture levels should be checked by either oven drying or a commercial moisture tester before ensiling.

The energy content of sweet corn silage is similar to regular corn silage; both contain approximately 70 percent TDN on a dry matter basis. Normal ranges in crude protein are from 8 to 8.5 percent on a dry matter basis for both regular and sweet corn silage.

Other nutrients in sweet corn silage are expected to be similar to regular corn silage. However, Linn suggests conducting a forage analysis for dry matter, protein and possibly fiber and minerals before feeding.

A growing steer and lamb feeding trial at the University of Minnesota showed that whole plant sweet corn silage had a feeding value identical to regular corn silage. Steers fed sweet corn silage had a slightly faster rate of gain and better feed efficiency than steers fed regular corn silage.

For the lamb trial, regular corn silage was higher in digestible dry matter and energy than sweet corn silage. Combining the results of the two trials determined a feeding value of 100 percent of regular corn silage.

A market value for sweet corn silage based on the results of these trials indicates sweet corn silage is worth the same price as regular corn silage.

A good rule of thumb for determining corn silage price is eight times the market value of corn. This rule applies to corn crops yielding between 90 to 140 bushels of corn or 14 to 18 tons of 35 percent dry matter silage per acre. For corn silage already harvested and stored, figure about 10 times the market price of corn.

Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Jim Kitts (612) 373-1016  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney (612) 373-0714

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8/18/79

UNMOWED ROADSIDES COULD  
BRING BACK THE PHEASANT

Farmers who usually take advantage of the free hay crop on roadsides, but didn't this year, may notice more ring-neck pheasants around the area.

Pheasants, Hungarian partridge and many other game birds nest and rear their young on grasslands. In heavily agricultural areas, these ground-nesters use roadsides.

"Our statewide pheasant population has declined nearly 90 percent since the 1950s," says Jim Kitts, University of Minnesota extension wildlife specialist. "What was grassland or small grain fields back then is now predominantly planted to row crops. That makes the roadside virtually our last hope for the ring-neck, the Hun and many other species."

That last hope could be a strong one if what happened this year becomes a permanent trend. A survey of two important game bird and agricultural counties showed an unusually low rate of roadside mowing.

Ground-nesters need to be undisturbed until the end of July in order to produce their young. A July, 1979, survey of Lincoln and Lyon county roadsides showed that only about 26 percent of these areas had been mowed for hay. Kitts estimates that in a "normal" year, about 40-50 percent would have been harvested.

What made this year abnormal? Probably a combination of wet, cold weather and the fuel crisis.

"Fuel prices jumped sky-high, adding to the cost of cutting that grass," he says. "The weather delayed planting, so many farmers did not have time to harvest the roadsides when the grass was at its best forage quality."

add one--unmowed roadsides could bring back

Wildlife surveys show an increase in pheasant populations in west central Minnesota this year, but Kitts is not ready to give low mowing rates the credit. "We can't expect immediate results. But if there is a trend toward less early summer mowing, we will see benefits to wildlife populations in a few years."

Studies conducted by researchers throughout the midwest show that at least 20 percent of pheasant chicks are reared on roadsides. Minnesota natural resource experts estimate this roadside production to be 40-50 percent of the total crop in this state. "With less of the before-August hay harvesting, the percentage of chicks, and the total population, could be even higher," Kitts says.

Waterfowl are also somewhat dependent on roadsides. North Dakota researchers found eight duck nests per mile along unmowed sections of an interstate highway.

An agricultural advantage of undisturbed roadsides could be better weed control. Kitts says that with minimal mowing, a sod of native prairie grasses will usually develop.

"Noxious weeds are literally crowded out by these prairie grasses," he explains. "Most noxious weeds are not native and cannot compete in undisturbed grasslands."

Native grasses also provide a source of high quality hay, which could be used as a reserve in drought years and other times of hay shortage. The crop is only available after July, however, insuring habitat for ground-nesters.

"Our roadsides must be considered a natural resource to be used wisely," Kitts says. "Farmers and others who enjoy seeing wildlife or benefit from a good hunting season may want to stop mowing roadsides from April 1 through July 20."

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Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Isabel Wolf (612) 376-3401

Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

### INCREASE FIBER IN YOUR DIET, BUT CAREFULLY

Increasing the amount of fiber in your diet is often recommended by nutritionists, but be careful; a moderate approach is best says Isabel Wolf, extension foods and nutrition specialist at the University of Minnesota.

"Add fiber to your diet cautiously," Wolf advises. "Eating 10 tablespoons of totally unprocessed bran each day can lead to digestive problems. In fact, some research indicates that phytic acid in whole grain brans may reduce the availability of important minerals, such as iron, calcium, zinc, copper and magnesium."

Persons with colitis, kidney disease or diabetes should consult with their physician before increasing fiber in the diet, Wolf says.

For most of us, the easiest and tastiest way to consume more fiber is by eating fruits and vegetables closest to their natural state--fresh and unpeeled. For instance, an unpeeled tomato gives you fiber from its skin, seeds and flesh. Other good sources of fiber are vegetables such as celery, cucumbers, green peppers, broccoli, cabbage, carrots and fruits such as plums, pears, apples, oranges, grapefruit and peaches. Dry beans, dry peas, nuts, whole-grain bread and cereals are other foods containing a good amount of fiber.

"There are also indirect advantages to consuming foods high in fiber," Wolf says. "Generally, these foods fill the stomach, so it's easier to avoid excess calories with a diet containing substantial amounts of high-fiber food."

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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ATTN: Extension Home Economists  
Immediate release

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CHILD  
EXPOSURE TO BOOKS  
SETS LIFE LONG HABITS

"There is no frigate like a book  
To take us lands away,  
Nor any coursers like a page  
Of prancing poetry."

--Emily Dickinson

With the school year now well under way and outdoor activities waning, a family life specialist at the University of Minnesota suggests that parents stress the pleasures of reading to their children.

Ronald Pitzer adds that once established, the reading habit gives a lifetime of pleasure, and it helps children understand their relationships with family and friends.

"Books show both happy and problem situations," Pitzer says. "They allow the child to identify with types of situations, and family changes described in books help him or her to adjust to changes at home."

To meet children's needs, however, books should be selected carefully. Whether you are buying books for your youngsters or selecting them from library shelves, Pitzer suggests looking for these qualities:

- \* Sincerity -- Children's books should take the young reader seriously, neither talking down to him or her nor over the child's head to an adult.
- \* Authenticity -- Children enjoy books where the sense of time and place is well established. Historical stories and biographies should be authentic, and any unsavory details should be tempered to the age of the expected reader.
- \* Credibility -- Plot and characterization must be convincing and the motivation believable even if details are fanciful such as in fantasies and science fiction tales.
- \* Emotional impact -- Emotions expressed should be close to a child's own. Consider the child's maturity when gauging what the impact will be.
- \* Age suitability -- When an age range is given on a book, use this merely as a reference. Children vary widely in their capacity and interests at any age.

In addition to choosing books wisely, Pitzer suggests that parents enjoy books with their children in a relaxed atmosphere where discussion can follow the reading. "Not only will family relationships be strengthened, but other values will also be derived," he says. "Books are one of the basic resources to be used in the development of happy, well-adjusted children."

\* \* \* \*

(MORE - related story follows)

Department of Information  
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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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(Note to home economists: This next story may be used as a companion piece, the second part of a two-part series or a separate story in its own right.)

FAIRY TALES  
GET MIXED REVIEWS

Witches, ogres, blood thirsty curses -- the elements of many fairy tales may be too frightening for some young children, but for others the stories have good points.

This is the opinion of extension family life specialist Ronald Pitzer of the University of Minnesota. He says fairy tales show strong feelings that all people have at times, and it helps children to understand these emotions.

The magical elements in fairy tales are also good because young children believe in magic and can become involved in the tales, he adds.

"Fairy tales often show good against bad, and all children must learn about this as they grow," Pitzer says. "The messages of good and bad are clear and this helps children think of their own ideas of right and wrong."

As fairy tale characters grapple with conflicting feelings, children gain some self-understanding. "They see that such feelings as loving and hating one's brothers or sisters at the same time can happen to others, too," he suggests.

Fairy tales are probably most helpful because they act like a bridge from a child's inner world of imagination to his or her real life, Pitzer says. "Heroes and heroines try their own ideas and this can give children the courage to try new things."

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
October 8, 1979

Source: Wilbur Maki, 612/376-3433  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney 612/373-0714

EMPLOYMENT BRIEFS...

Job Growth Highest Outside Twin Cities: A report released by the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station shows the most rapid growth in job opportunities to be outside the Twin Cities. Projections for 1970-2000 indicate that employment in the service industry is expanding in small cities. Historically agricultural areas are broadening their economic bases to include more manufacturing and service employment.

"Employment shifts are following the 'reverse migration' of the 1970's" says Wilbur Maki, regional economist and chief author of the report. "Fewer people are moving into large metropolitan areas and more are staying in or moving to small cities and towns."

Cities such as St. Cloud, Fergus Falls, and Moorhead attract young families with their high level of services and low living costs. "As people move into these areas and take the jobs available in growth industries, there is a further expansion of services," Maki says.

\* \* \* \*

Minnesota's Job Growth Healthy: Minnesota's rate of employment growth for 1970-2000 is projected at more than 1.2 percent annually, which is close to the national average. "We can expect to maintain this rate as long as some of our exceptionally strong employment industries remain strong in this state," says University of Minnesota regional economist Wilbur Maki.

One measure of strength is how much employment an industry provides in Minnesota above the national average, or excess employment. Projections indicate that by the year 2000, excess employment in machinery manufacturing will be over one-third (36 percent) the total excess. Professional services will provide 19 percent of the excess jobs, and trade services 11 percent. Agriculture will decrease from 30 percent in 1970 to seven percent by 2000.

add 1--employment briefs

"We are likely to keep up with national employment and income growth averages as long as the costs of doing business in this state do not increase substantially higher than other states," Maki says.

# # # #

Higher Quality of Life in Store? Minnesota's transition to more service employment could mean a higher quality of life, especially outside the Twin Cities area.

"Level of available services is one of the key indicators in measuring quality of life," says University of Minnesota regional economist Wilbur Maki. "As services increase at a faster rate outside the major metropolitan area, the difference between quality of life in the Twin Cities and rural Minnesota gets smaller."

\* \* \* \*

Employment Growth by Region: The central and eastern sections of the state, except for the Twin Cities, have the highest projected employment growth rates. By Development Region, Central Minnesota (7W) Six East (6E), Nine, and Southeastern (10) are experiencing less agricultural and more manufacturing growth in basic employment. The professional services industry is an increasingly important part of the Southeastern region's economic base. The projected annual job growth rate in these four regions during 1970-2000 is 1.4 percent, well above the state average.

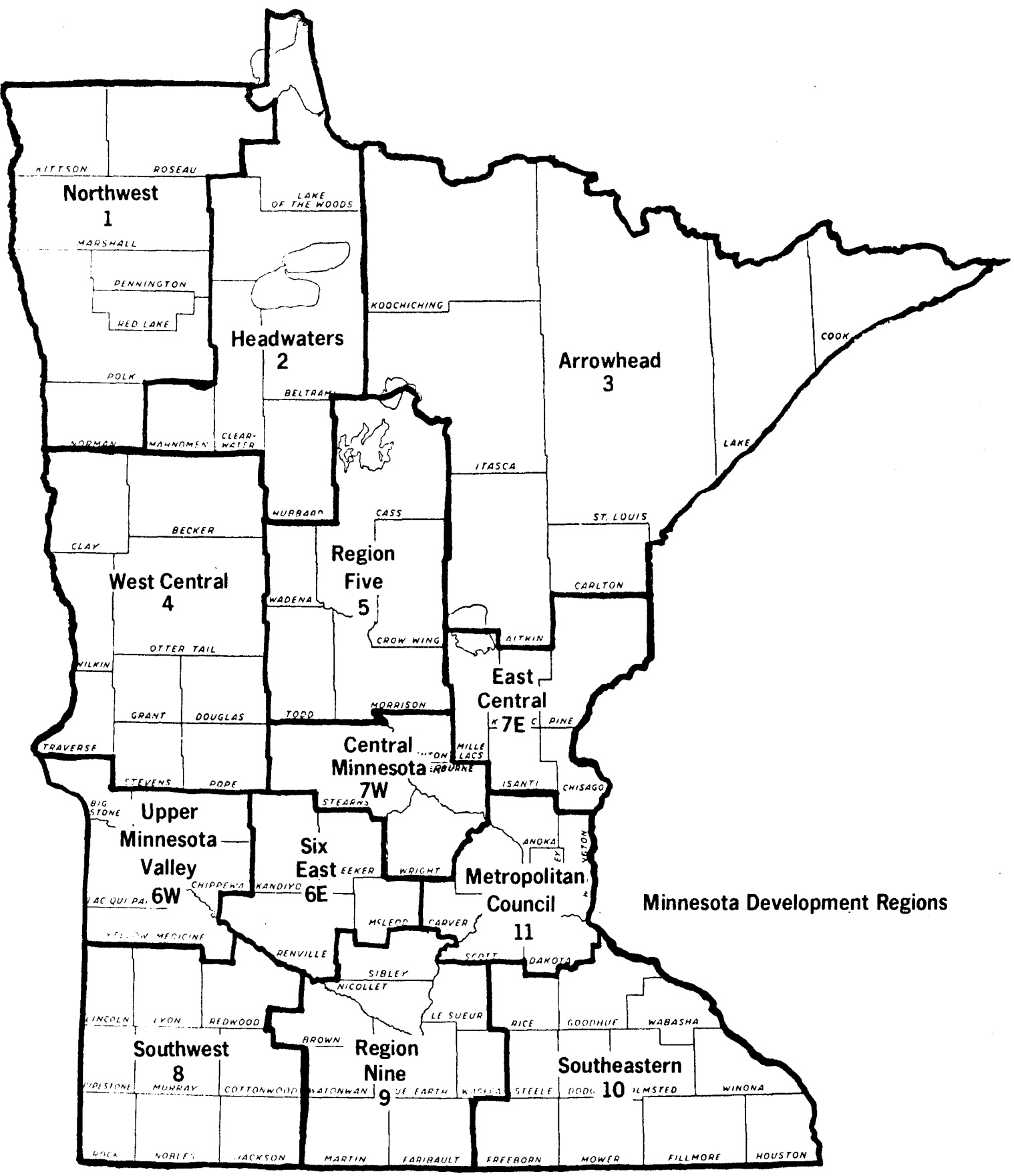
An above-average growth rate is projected for northeastern and north central Minnesota. The Arrowhead (3), Headwaters (2), Five, and East Central (7E) development regions are moving to more manufacturing and service employment. Mining and forestry will remain an important part of the economic base of these regions.

The dominantly agricultural regions have a projected annual employment growth of only 1.1 percent over the 30-year period. They are Northwest (1), West Central (4), Upper Minnesota Valley (6W) and Southwest (8). The Metropolitan Council region's growth rate is projected at less than 1.2 percent.

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Minnesota Development Regions

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Ruth Teeter (612) 376-7624

Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

#### WHAT CAN PARENTS SAY AFTER THEY SAY NO?

Your 13-year-old daughter wants to wear make-up like the rest of her friends, but you feel she's too young. Your son wants to buy his own car, but at 16, you feel he's not ready for the responsibility. In both cases, you say no. In both cases, conflict erupts. What can parents do after they've said no?

"If you trust what you've done in child rearing, then trust your children," says Ruth Teeter of the Center for Youth Development at the University of Minnesota. There's a given that's backed by hard research and clinical wisdom that I think every parent should lock into their minds: By the time your child is in their teens, you've done all you can. They should know your values, expectations and what you stand for."

But be prepared to have that trust tested again and again, Teeter warns. "This testing is just a part of growing up, a way for children to explore who they are," she says. "Have you ever met someone who didn't go through this time of testing and exploring? They often wind up to be 50 year-old adolescents."

Although a child's testing often creates chaos in even the most loving families, parents should remember that it's one way children can say to parents they feel safe enough in the home to act out their anger and hostilities. "This is a real validation of your parenting," Teeter says.

"We talk a lot about communicating with our kids and this is one form of communication. The dream is that daughter comes home and she and mom have a calm, lovely little talk over tea and cookies, or father and son spend peaceful hours discussing life. Although this does happen from time to time, communication will sometimes take place in an arena of conflict."

add 1--saying no

Saying no to your child is often a sure guarantee of conflict, and parents should be sure they're committing themselves to a stance they're ready to enforce. "Set your limit and then stick to it," Teeter says. "Backing down time and again can be destructive to children. They need consistency from their parents. When you've a valid reason for saying no, dig in your heels and stick to your decision."

However, it's equally important that children realize their parents are not perfect and can admit mistakes. Often times discipline takes on other colorations, such as frustration and tension. "Ask yourself if the discipline is just overloading on the kids, or is it a way I'm helping to develop a sense of responsibility and self-respect in my child," Teeter says. "After all, isn't that the real reason we discipline our children? A parent can really shake a child up because they do care for us. Sometimes, discipline is in the parent's best interest, not the child's. Striking a good balance is often very hard."

Above all, parents should aim for mutual respect and trust when trying to determine rules and limits for their children. "The nitty gritty issues are actually secondary to the way we work out these kinds of problems," Teeter says. "Discipline shouldn't be measured by how obedient children are, but how parents are working to help children develop self-respect and responsibility as they move into their adult roles."

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
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SOURCE: Jim Linn (612) 373-1014

WRITER: Kathy Frank Chesney (612) 373-0714

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PROGRAMMABLE CALCULATORS  
SPEED UP DECISION-MAKING

Hand-held programmable calculators can help farmers with their day-to-day decision-making at relatively low cost, says Jim Linn, University of Minnesota extension dairy specialist.

"These calculators, such as the Texas Instruments model 59 (TI-59), are most helpful to people who must make series of calculations on a routine basis," Linn says. "The farmer who wants to balance a ration, figure discount corn prices by different moisture contents, calculate returns from a certain market price for livestock, or make other routine calculations, can save time with a programmable calculator."

The TI-59 is similar to an ordinary calculator with the added ability to store programs on magnetic cards. These programs--series of instructions or mathematical equations--can be programmed onto the cards by the calculator. Each time the user needs the program, he or she slips the card into a slot on the side of the calculator and presses keys for the new variables.

"These calculators are able to remember how to perform a long series of calculations," Linn explains. "This ability allows the producer to concentrate more on interpreting results and less on pressing keys."

Programmable calculators can be compared to small computers, which are also available to farmers as decision-making aids. The calculator costs much less than a computer (\$300 or less as compared to a few thousand dollars for a computer). Calculators are completely portable. Users can write their own programs for either machine, but the calculator does not use computer language. Users can

-more-

Add one--programmable calculators

also purchase printers for their calculators and keep a copy of each transaction. Storage capacity (ability to remember large programs) is much smaller in the calculator.

Linn, who worked as a dairy specialist at Iowa State University before joining the Minnesota staff, lists some of the 61 programs developed in Iowa: (1) metric conversions, (2) batch mix (for determining amounts of feed ingredients), (3) beef cow ration analyzer, (4) feedlot ration analyzer, (5) dairy ration balancer, (6) swine and poultry ration formulation, (7) relative value of various feeds for swine (8) gestation management (calculating due dates), (9) beef weaning and yearling weight adjustment, (10) production work sheets for feeder cattle, lambs and pigs, and (11) financial and economic analysis of land purchase.

Listings and descriptions of programs are available from Publications Distribution, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, 50011. A module that fits into the back of the TI-59 calculator holds 16 Iowa State programs, including those mentioned above. It eliminates card-reading for those programs. The module is available at most retail outlets that sell the TI-59, and is accompanied by an instruction booklet guiding use of the programs.

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Attention: Home Economists  
Immediate release

Food Briefs...

Economize with pork: Compared with the skyrocketing price of beef, pork seems to be a good buy right now, says Edna Jordahl. The extension family management specialist recommends substituting ham for a beef roast the next time company drops in; figure about four servings per pound for a canned or boneless ham; a bone-in ham provides about three-and-a-half servings per pound.

\* \* \* \*

Know your ham: Consumers have several types of ham from which to choose; when buying hams, it's important to read and understand labels, says Richard Epley, extension meats specialist at the University of Minnesota.

--Fresh vs. cured: The "uncured ham" should be labeled "pork leg" and is referred to as fresh ham. A common curing process is the country cure, which uses a dry process. This type of curing produces a special flavorful, slightly dry and salty product.

--Canned vs. non-canned: A canned ham will have its net weight stated on the label; that is, the ham's weight excluding the can.

--Bone-in vs. boneless: Hams may be sold intact with all bones; your agility with a carving knife, or your need for ham bones will probably be the deciding factor. These hams may be either canned or non-canned.

--Half vs. portion: Some bone-in hams are large and are sold in smaller portions. If a ham is cut in half, the product sold will be a rump half or a shank half. If one or more of the meaty center slices are removed and sold separately, the resulting product will be sold as rump portion or shank portion. A shank portion has more connective tissue than a rump portion.

- more -

add 1--food briefs

--Regular vs. water-added: The brine used in curing is mostly water. During the curing, smoking and cooking processes, all of the added water is usually lost. However, some hams don't lose all the added water, and must be labeled "water-added" or "moist," if they contain 10 percent added water and are sold as non-canned. Canned ham may contain up to eight percent added water and still be considered regular. Canned ham must be labeled "water-added" or "moist" if it contains eight to 16.5 percent added water.

Perishable vs. Non-perishable: All non-canned hams are perishable and must be refrigerated at all times. Most canned hams are also perishable and must be refrigerated. Pasteurized canned hams do not require refrigeration. Such hams may be kept at room temperature almost indefinitely until the can is opened. When in doubt, always refrigerate.

\* \* \* \*

Storing hams: When in doubt, refrigerate hams at all times, says Richard Epley, extension meat specialist at the University of Minnesota. Storage temperature should be 32 degrees Fahrenheit. At this temperature, cured ham slices and boneless, non-canned hams may be stored for about one week. Shank and rump portions and halves can be stored for about two weeks. Intact, bone-in, smoked and whole hams can be stored for about a month. In all cases, cover the product with moisture-proof wrapping material, Epley says, to prevent dehydration.

Perishable, unopened canned hams can be stored in the refrigerator indefinitely, Epley says. Once opened and partially used, store left-overs as you would a boneless, non-canned ham.

\* \* \* \*

Freezing ham: Never freeze canned hams as purchased, says Richard Epley, extension meats specialist at the University of Minnesota. Non-canned hams and hams taken out of the can may be frozen for up to two months if wrapped tightly in a high-quality freezer wrap. Storage over two months results in a loss in flavor.

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Immediate release

WOMEN AND ENERGY THE TOPIC OF NOVEMBER CONFERENCE

"Women Can Affect the Energy Crisis" will be the topic of a conference set for Friday and Saturday, Nov. 2 and 3 at the Earl Brown Center, University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus.

The conference will be divided into three subject areas: career opportunities in the field of renewable energy; citizen action and advocacy of renewable energy; and what women can do to conserve energy in their everyday lives.

A Friday evening reception and dinner will be followed by keynote speaker Valerie Pope Ludlam, president of the San Bernadino West Side Community Development Corp. Ludlam organized a successful neighborhood energy project which provides solar heat and hot water to homes and industries. Workshops on career opportunities in the field of renewable energy follow the address.

State Rep. Ken Nelson and Darryl Thayer, an independent energy consultant, will lead the Saturday morning Citizen's forum beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday afternoon workshops will focus on individual efforts to reduce energy consumption.

A self-guided tour of outstanding metro-area solar residences and public buildings will be offered on Sunday, November 4.

The fee for the conference is \$18. The Friday evening banquet is an additional \$6. The deadline for registration is Friday, Oct. 26. For more information, call (612) 373-4947.

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

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
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SOURCE: Bob Aherin (612) 373-0764

WRITER: Kathy Frank Chesney (612) 373-0714

Immediate release

WILLMAR HOSTS SOUTHERN  
MINNESOTA SAFETY CONFERENCE

The Southern Minnesota Safety Conference moves west this year when farmers, housewives, businessmen and safety supervisors meet at Willmar Oct. 26 to learn the latest in accident prevention.

The conference provides a chance to talk with the experts about such timely topics as home fire escape plans, home heating and ventilation, the Heimlich maneuver to prevent choking, trauma involving farm machinery, pesticide safety and many others. The conference is conducted by the Minnesota Safety Council and sponsored by 24 organizations including the University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service.

Twelve courses will be offered, which range in length from one to six hours. Highlights of the "Agriculture-Practical Safety Training" course include: reducing the odds of having farm accidents, airborne hazards of farming, and accident prevention through machinery maintenance. State Extension specialists Bob Aherin and Jack True will speak on these subjects.

The "Farm Accident Victim Extrication" course is offered primarily for those involved in rural rescue or health care. Aherin and True will give demonstrations on rescue and prevention.

Topics to be discussed in the "Safety at Home" course include: falls aren't funny; bubble, bubble, toys and trouble; and ventilation and conservation--get your home heating ready for a safe winter. Free child care is offered during the conference. Children will learn basic first aid knowledge through the American Red Cross course "First Aid for Little People."

Other courses include "Personal Side of Safety" which teaches the Heimlich maneuver for helping choking victims, and "Learn Not to Burn" which includes sessions on smoke detectors, escape plans, and farm chemical fire hazards.

Youth 18 and younger and persons over 65 may attend free of charge. For more information about fees and preregistration, contact your county extension office.

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
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Source: G. Edward Schuh 612/373-0945

Writer: Kathy Chesney 612/373-0714

## INFLATION BRIEFS. . .

Cause of Inflation: "When a country prints money at a faster rate than its growth in output, then you have more money chasing real goods and the price level goes up."

That is the real cause of inflation, says Ed Schuh, who heads the University of Minnesota's agricultural economics department. Rising food prices and energy costs are a part of the problem, but not a cause of inflation.

"Congress repeatedly votes for more appropriations than tax increases," Schuh explains. "The resulting budget deficits are covered by printing more money. Inflation serves as a hidden tax."

\* \* \* \*

Inflation's Affect on Agriculture: Productivity growth in agriculture is slowed by inflation because investment capital is less available and public services decrease. The rising cost of land also makes U.S. farm products less competitive in the export market.

"In an inflationary environment, most people decide it's not a good idea to be holding money," says Ed Schuh, head of the University of Minnesota agricultural economics department. "When private individuals spend rather than save, that means fewer investment funds for agriculture."

When those funds are used to finance land sales, the price of land increases and adds to the cost of agricultural production. "We are not going to be nearly as competitive in international trade if we keep bidding these land prices up," Schuh warns.

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add one--inflation briefs

Public services tend to lag in a very inflationary environment. When the budgets for agricultural research and extension education do not keep up with the rate of inflation, agricultural productivity eventually suffers.

\* \* \* \*

The Solution to Inflation: A fiscal policy which results in a balanced budget over the business cycle is needed to deal with inflation, says Ed Schuh of the University of Minnesota.

"We need a policy that says we must keep the books balanced over the business cycle," says the University's head agricultural economist. "A deficit one year should be offset by a surplus the following year. If not, the U.S. will be printing money over the long run and creating inflation with it."

Schuh adds, "We must have the political will to make this decision. We must convince ourselves that we may not be able to have everything we want."

\* \* \* \*

Inflation and Energy: The reaction of policy-makers to rising energy costs fuels inflation, not the costs themselves.

When OPEC nations raise oil prices, Americans suffer a decline in real income. "Policy-makers continue to inflate the economy as a means of offsetting that decline," says Ed Schuh, head of the University of Minnesota agricultural economics department.

Schuh says policy-makers should allow the price of energy to rise in real terms. "Then we can make the difficult transition in resource use, and get about our business." Once the shift is completed, "we will move into a period of sustained growth."

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Source: Paul Hasbargen (612) 373-1145

Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney (612) 373-0714

ECONOMICS BRIEFS...

Will High Interest Rates Stem Land Prices? Probably not, says University of Minnesota extension economist Paul Hasbargen.

"So much of the farmland in Minnesota is sold contract-for-deed, which is not affected much by short-term changes in the prime interest rate," Hasbargen says. "The Federal Reserve's new tight money policy and resulting high interest rates will, however, increase the variable rates paid by the Federal Land Bank in the near future."

\* \* \* \*

Fed Cattle Outlook: Cattle feeding margins will be slim in the coming year, says University of Minnesota extension farm management specialist Paul Hasbargen.

Current feeder cattle prices and projected feed costs suggest that choice steers will need to be about \$75 per hundredweight during 1980 to cover all feedlot costs. This price level may be surpassed early next year. "But, we expect the average to be somewhat lower, suggesting that the cattle feeder who can't take the risk of large losses may want to contract ahead if the opportunity arises this winter," Hasbargen says. "That's the way to lock in some profits on feeders purchased this fall."

\* \* \* \*

Cattle Numbers Bottom Out: After four years of decline, the Jan. 1, 1980 cattle inventory will show a small increase over year-earlier figures, says University of Minnesota extension economist Paul Hasbargen. Cow slaughter has been running fully one-third less than January, 1979 levels and there were eight percent more replacement heifers on hand July 1 than in that month of 1978.

Cattle marketings will likely bottom out in 1980. Heifer and cow slaughter will remain low as producers rebuild herds in response to steer calf prices above \$1 a lb. The 1979 yearling feeder supply was about nine percent under year earlier estimates as of July 1. Fed cattle marketings will be limited in 1980 by that supply, but will increase in subsequent years as feeder cattle numbers begin to increase.

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Source: Paul Hasbargen 612/373-1145

Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney 612/373-0714

COW-CALF OPERATORS--  
DON'T LET HIGH INTEREST  
RATES SCARE YOU

Cow-calf operators are heading into their best year of the current beef marketing cycle, thanks to high feeder cattle prices coupled with abundant low-priced forage feed supplies. That's the outlook from University of Minnesota agricultural economist Paul Hasbargen.

"Even though escalating interest rates are going to add at least \$20 to the cost of maintaining each \$500 cow, I advise producers to keep any animal that is likely to produce a calf in 1980," Hasbargen says. "It'll be worthwhile to grit your teeth and pay those 14 percent and higher interest rates."

The extension farm management specialist also advises that cows be used for starting or expanding the herd. "If the heifer calves are kept instead, total costs of getting that first calf will be higher--and there will be no calf for sale next fall when prices will be at their cyclical peak."

The coming marketing year will likely result in the highest returns to the cow-calf enterprise for this beef cycle. Despite the high interest rates, record high feeder prices and low feed costs will keep returns above other years. Two more excellent years will follow.

In 1981, however, the real price of calves is likely to be behind 1980 levels. Even though the nominal steer calf price may remain near \$1.10 lb., a 10 percent decline in the value of the dollar in 1980 and again in 1981 will put the real price at 90 cents in 1979 dollars.

"As a result, those planning a beef cow herd expansion program may want to use a planning price of about \$80 on steer calves and \$70 on heifer calves along with current 1979 production costs," Hasbargen concludes.

For detailed estimates of production costs and returns, see the recently updated "Beef Cow Herd Planning Guide" available from county extension offices. Planning guides for dairy, sheep, hogs and cattle feeding are also available.

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Immediate release  
Source: Paul Hasbargen 612/373-1145  
Writer: Jack Sperbeck 612/373-0715

SOME STRAW PRICED  
HIGHER THAN HAY

Straw continues to bring higher prices than hay in many parts of Minnesota.

"We expect straw prices to range between \$30 and \$70 per ton in the coming year, with higher prices in the southern counties," says Paul Hasbargen, extension economist at the University of Minnesota. Alfalfa hay prices will probably range between \$20 and \$45 from northwestern to southeastern Minnesota.

Hay prices should be past their summer lows. Alfalfa prices had moved up slightly by mid-September. Some high quality third cutting alfalfa passed the \$50 per ton mark at Hutchinson the first week of October.

However, the Thief River Falls pelleting plant is now paying \$17.50 per ton for alfalfa-grass hay delivered to the plant. Other alfalfa hay prices reported at several auctions in Minnesota in early October were: Pipestone, \$40 to \$47 per ton; Hutchinson, about \$40 per ton; and Canby, \$35 to \$37 per ton.

Hasbargen and co-workers are working with the Minnesota Crop and Livestock Reporting Service to identify hay producers who regularly sell hay. This information will be used to provide a more complete source of hay price information.

Anyone who knows of cash crop hay producers is encouraged to send their names to Carroll Rock at the Crop and Livestock Reporting Service in St. Paul; or to Paul Hasbargen, 249 Classroom Office Building, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108.

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
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Source: Clif Halsey 612/373-1060  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney 612-373-0714

#### FALL TILLAGE DISCOURAGED AFTER SOYBEAN HARVEST

Soybean fields seem to be more susceptible to wind and water erosion than fields from which corn or small grains have been harvested, says Clif Halsey, University of Minnesota extension conservationist.

Halsey recommends that ground planted to soybeans this year not be tilled this fall if wind or water erosion hazards exist. "Fields that have been in soybeans seem to erode more readily than other fields," he says.

Soybeans leave less of the protective crop residue on the soil surface than most major crops--about one ton of plant matter per acre with a 40 bushel yield. Corn yielding 120 bushels leaves three tons of residue per acre. An 80-bushel small grains crop yields four tons of leaves and stems.

"Plant materials cover only about 60 percent of the ground after bean harvest, compared to 85-90 percent with corn," Halsey says. "On erosion-prone fields, you need as much residue cover as you can get to break the force of raindrops, slow water run-off and shield the soil from wind."

With one pass of the tandem disk, ground coverage is reduced to about 20 percent. Soybean stems and leaves also seem to decay more readily than other residues.

"For protection against wind, I recommend light disking of residues or no tillage in the fall," Halsey says. "To stem water erosion, there should be no fall tillage of soybean fields."

Research conducted in south central and western Minnesota indicates that reducing tillage operations after soybeans does not generally reduce yields in these soils. For details on this research and tillage recommendations, see Extension Folder 491, "Tillage Systems in Southwest and West Central Minnesota" or Extension Folder 492, "Tillage Practices in South Central Minnesota." For more information about wind erosion, see Extension Folder 496, "Wind Erosion: Its Control in Minnesota." These publications are available through your county extension office.

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Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

IN BRIEF. . .

Biological Insecticide: The Indian-meal moth, the most common moth pest of stored grain in Minnesota, can be controlled with a naturally occurring material contained in the insecticide Dipel. A disease organism in the insecticide kills the worm stage of moths, but will not control stored grain beetles or weevils. The moth control agent, the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*, only affects insects.

In some areas of the state, the Indian-meal moth has developed resistance to malathion, which is the primary residual insecticide for protecting stored grain. Although the moth is most common in shelled corn, it is becoming a more frequent pest problem in stored soybeans.

Dipel was cleared for use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in July, 1979. It is not classified as a hazardous material, an important consideration for applicator safety. Treated grain may be used at any time for any purpose.

Mixing the insecticide into the top four inches of grain after the bin is full or during transfer of that top layer will protect the whole bin. Other treatments, such as fumigation to control weevils and the lesser grain borer, do not reduce Dipel's effectiveness. Its toxicity to moths does not deteriorate at high temperatures.

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Extending the Shipping Season: Keeping the St. Lawrence Seaway open ten extra days would allow about five percent more grain to be moved from the Duluth-Superior harbor than if the seaway closed in mid-December as scheduled. Jerry Fruin, University of Minnesota extension transportation specialist, says his estimate is a substantial figure considering the port's importance in the agricultural export trade.

"More than half of the 4½ million tons of wheat shipped from Duluth is exported and must travel through the seaway," Fruin says. "Nearly 100 percent of the oat, barley, corn and sunflower capacity is exported."

State farm groups and some elected officials have asked for a ten-day extension of the shipping season.

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
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Source: Dottie Goss (612) 373-0914  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

#### CREDIT BRIEFS. . .

Know Your Credit Card Options: A 1979 Minnesota law requires that bank credit card issuers in this state offer their customers two types of charge plans. "To decide which plan to use, carefully consider how you'll use your bank card," says Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota.

One credit card plan features a card issued without an annual charge and one-and-a-half percent interest per month or 18 percent per year. The other features a \$15 annual charge with one percent interest per month, or a 12 percent per year interest rate.

"If you pay the charges on the account as you're billed, then the card without the annual charge would be a better choice. Its use will have no direct cost to you," Goss says. "If, on the average, you're paying interest on charges far more than \$250 per month on the account, then the card with the lower interest rate and the \$15 annual fee would be your better option."

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Women and Credit Card Rights: Women have the right to establish and maintain accounts in their first and maiden name, their first and husband's last name or in a combination last name under the Fair Credit Opportunity Act, reports Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota.

"If a woman uses the title 'Mrs.' with her husband's first and last name, the credit reporting agencies lack the information necessary to set up an independent file for her," Goss says. "Many joint accounts are now reported only in the husband's name. Having the account activities reported to credit reporting agencies in each name will help establish the credit worthiness of both card holders for future transactions."

add one--credit briefs

When a name is changed, make sure to notify creditors in order to keep record-keeping straight. Make sure creditors know what name was previously used and what name is being currently used.

\* \* \* \*

Denied credit? Don't Despair: Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, if you're denied credit, you must be told so in writing within 30 days of the action on your application, reports Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota.

"You must be told the reason for the denial or told how to request that information," Goss says. "A recent survey by the Federal Reserve System indicates that many applicants were able to provide additional information sufficient to receive credit after they were informed of the denial and the reasons for the denial."

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Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
October 15, 1979

Source: Sherri Johnson (612) 376-1537  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

### CARING FOR WOOLS...

As days grow shorter and cooler, many shoppers are turning to wools and wool blends to fill out their winter wardrobe.

"Caring for wools is not all that difficult," says Sherri Johnson, extension textiles specialist at the University of Minnesota. "Wool is relatively soil-resistant. Usually spot removal is no major problem."

Johnson explains that wool in its natural state is about 25 percent grease. Grease and oil spots don't spot wool fabrics as readily as they do fabrics of other fiber contents.

"Dry cleaning is the preferred method for cleaning wool," Johnson says. "If you decide to wash wool at home, use great care to prevent fuzzing and shrinkage. Mild alkalies, soaps and detergents cause little if any damage, if heat and agitation are kept to a minimum. And never use chlorine bleach on wools."

After each wearing, use a good clothes brush on collars and inside cuffs. A firm, soft brush not only removes dust but also gently lifts the fibers back to their natural springiness. If the fabric is damp, allow it to dry before brushing.

"Let your wool garment rest between wearings to prevent deformation," Johnson advises. "Baggy elbows and skirt seats will become less baggy as the garment rests. In a pinch, hang your garment over a tub of steamy water or spray it with a fine mist of water. This should speed up recovery."

Pressure can sometimes cause wool fabrics to take on a shiny appearance. If this occurs, sponge the fabric with a five-percent solution of white vinegar and then steam. This will cause the fibers to swell and become fluffy. If surface fibers become worn, use very fine sandpaper to smooth the worn area. This sandpaper technique will also work to remove very light scorches.

Unless your garment is mothproofed, make sure you store it in a place where moths won't get to it. Moths will also eat, but not digest, any fiber that's blended with wool.

"With proper care, wool garments can last through many wearing seasons," Johnson says. "This is especially true if you've selected classic styles which outlast fads and annual fashion trends."



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Source: Robert Snyder 612/376-3433

YOUR VIEWS ON  
LAND USE SOUGHT

Policy-makers want to hear your views on land use and conservation during an Agricultural Land Study workshop scheduled for Nov. 13-15 at Moorhead, Minn., in the Ramada Inn.

Goal of the workshop is to obtain views of all land users regarding land use, ownership, conservation, entry into agriculture and water rights.

There will be just one presentation to the group to provide an overview of agricultural land concerns. The rest of the workshop will allow participants to discuss their views on issues, concerns, what needs to be done, who should handle problems and techniques and policies that have worked.

With a broad perspective being sought, real estate people, builders, developers, farmers, environmentalists, recreationists, consumer groups, users of natural resources, government representatives and business people are urged to attend.

The Moorhead workshop is part of a national agricultural lands study initiated by the Council on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Persons interested in attending can obtain additional details and registration materials from Ronald C. Powers, director, North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, 108 Curtiss Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011.

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Source: Michael Pullen (612) 373-1126  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

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9/22/79

## TAKE PROPER CARE IN FIELD WITH GAME BIRDS

Game birds provide a food source and recreational pleasure for many Minnesotans. "Taking proper care in the field will ensure tasty, safe eating back home," says Michael Pullen, extension veterinarian-meat hygienist at the University of Minnesota.

"You'll want to remove the bird's entrails as soon as possible after shooting, as well as its crop (esophagus and windpipe)," Pullen says. "Make sure air is allowed to circulate in the body cavity and the carcass is cooled quickly and thoroughly. It's quite important that the meat stays cold (34 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit) until cooked to prevent spoilage."

The following items will be handy to have out in the field: an ice chest with ice, a few small plastic bags, paper bags, paper toweling and a sharp hunting knife. In cold weather or on short trips, the ice chest may not be necessary. In any case, avoid piling warm birds together in a mass.

### Waterfowl

Eviscerate ducks and geese just as soon as you can," Pullen recommends. "To remove the entrails, make a cut starting just below the breast bone up to the tail and around the vent. Pull out the entrails, being careful not to break them or the gallbladder on the liver, which could contaminate the carcass. Remove the gallbladder, crop and the oil gland above the tail. Put the liver, heart and gizzard in a small plastic bag."

If the crop doesn't come out with the entrails, make a slit on the back of the neck and remove it. Dry plucking is much easier with a warm bird.

Scalding is another way to remove the feathers. "To scald any game bird, hold it by the feet and dip it into a deep vessel of very hot (about 145 degrees Fahrenheit) water until the feathers pull out easily," Pullen says. "Let the bird hang for a few minutes to drain and then pluck. Down and hairs may be removed by

add one--field care of game birds

singeing the bird with a paper torch."

If you want to freeze your bird, wrap the carcass in heavy-duty aluminum foil or place it in a heavy plastic bag. Seal, label and freeze at 10 to 15 degrees Fahrenheit; use within six months.

### Upland Game Birds

Pheasant, partridge, grouse, quail and woodcock may be field dressed as one would dress ducks or geese. Again, you may choose to dry pluck your bird while it is warm; remember, plucking becomes relatively difficult with a cooled bird. As with waterfowl, scalding will expedite the plucking process.

After defeathering, finish dressing the bird making sure to remove lungs, all of the entrails and crop. Save the heart, liver and gizzard. Remove the gallbladder from the liver, taking care not to break it.

Some people like to age their bird two to four days in the refrigerator. Another option is to freeze the bird and let it thaw slowly in the refrigerator, which may help tenderize it and add to its flavor. Use the same method as described for waterfowl.

Cooking methods vary according to personal tastes. Generally speaking, waterfowl provides juicy meat. Upland game birds tend to be dry. Cream, bacon or salt pork used in cooking will help keep them moist, especially when preparing an older bird.

Remember--good, safe eating begins in the field.

"Prompt plucking and evisceration of the bird, cleanliness and rapid chilling out in the field will allow you to store the carcass in the refrigerator or in the freezer for a longer period of time," Pullen says.

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Source: Deane Turner (612) 373-0923  
Writer: Jack Sperbeck (612) 373-0715

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS NAMED FOR HARVEST BOWL

Howard Hjort, chief economist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and historian-author Hiram Drache will address Harvest Bowl participants on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus Nov. 16. The program starts at 1:30 p.m.

Harvest Bowl's theme is "Shaping Agriculture's Future." Following the keynote addresses, discussion groups will address six key issues in shaping agriculture's future. The discussion sessions will be followed by an evening banquet honoring Minnesota County Farm Families of the Year at Paul's Place Inn on N. Snelling Ave. in St. Paul.

A Saturday morning (Nov. 17) symposium will be a continuation of the Friday discussion groups. Summaries made of Friday's discussions will be presented to the Saturday symposium for evaluation and open discussion. The key issues include production, marketing, public policy, agriculture and rural America, agricultural education, and research and development.

The six key issues have been identified by Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland to generate national debate on the structure of agriculture.

Presiding at the Saturday morning discussion sessions will be Edward Schuh, head of the University of Minnesota's Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

Participants may attend the Minnesota-Wisconsin football game Saturday afternoon or tour the University's College of Agriculture.

A concurrent youth program will be held on both days. For more information, contact the College of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108, Tel. (612) 373-0923. Brochures are available from county extension offices and vocational agriculture departments throughout the state. The reservation deadline is Nov. 10.

add 1--keynote speakers

Hjort is chief economic advisor to Bergland. He is in charge of USDA programs for economic research, farmer cooperatives and statistical reporting. He is also in charge of the department's Office of Budget, Planning and Evaluation, and the new World Food and Agriculture Outlook and Situation Board.

Drache is a history professor at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn. He is well known as an author and consultant to agri-business firms and farmers throughout the Midwest. He has written four books on agriculture and has published numerous articles in historical and agricultural journals. Drache designed a computerized accounting system for his totally automated, confined cattle feedlot at Baker, Minn.

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Source: Midwest Plan Service  
Ames, Iowa  
515/294-4337

PRIVATE WATER SYSTEMS  
HANDBOOK AVAILABLE

If you are responsible for your own water supply through a private water system, a new handbook may be valuable in answering some questions you may have about quality and quantity.

The Private Water Systems Handbook can help you find answers to such questions as: Is my water safe for family and livestock? Does it meet public health requirements for the milk market? Does the supply meet my present and future needs?

The handbook was written by water quality specialists through the Midwest Plan Service (MWPS). It can help you plan a new system, correct problems in an existing one and aid operation and maintenance.

Water treatment is a major section of the newly revised handbook. It deals with common problems, such as rusty or hard water; and the not-so-common problems, such as high concentrations of nitrates or sulfur.

The handbook, MWPS-14, has more than 70 pages dealing with water conservation, system flow rate, and sources such as wells, cisterns, ponds and springs. Information on pumps, motors, pressure tanks, controls, and piping is also included. Graphs, maps, tables and diagrams complement the handbook.

The Private Water Systems Handbook, MWPS-14, is available from the extension agricultural engineer, 201 Agricultural Engineering Building, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108. It costs \$2.50 plus \$.10 sales tax. Make checks payable to the University of Minnesota.

MWPS is an official activity of 12 North Central Land Grant Universities and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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Source: Midwest Plan Service  
Ames, Iowa  
515/294-4337

MIDWEST PLAN  
CALF BARN COMBINES  
WARMTH, LOW-COST

A "warm" calf housing system gives you the advantage of no freezing problems and added comfort for both you and your animals. An open-front barn, naturally ventilated and partially insulated, provides lower cost housing.

A new building plan from the Midwest Plan Service, MWPS-72365, combines both of these housing systems into a 24' x 80' calf barn that holds 45 to 50 calves.

The warm section of the barn can be either twenty 4' x 4' individual pens or 10 individual pens and two group pens. In the open-front section, two 8' x 20' pens and two 12' x 20' group pens open to outside pens.

The barn is equipped with a mechanical barn cleaner in the individual pen area. Manure in the open-front section is tractor-scraped.

The ten-page plan, MWPS-72365, is available from the extension agricultural engineer, 201 Agricultural Engineering Building, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108. The cost of the plan is \$2.00 plus \$.08 sales tax. Make checks payable to the University of Minnesota.

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Source: Midwest Plan Service  
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515/294-4337

MIDWEST PLAN BARN  
FOR DAIRY CALVES  
IN TWO AGE GROUPS

A dairy calf barn plan combining the advantages of warm housing for young calves and low-cost, open-front housing for older calves is available from the Midwest Plan Service.

The plan, MWPS-72363, is for a 24' x 72' barn that houses 40 to 45 calves. Half of the barn has eight 4' x 4' individual calf pens separated by a 4' work alley from three 12' x 12' group pens for calves weighing up to 310 pounds. This section is heated and insulated.

The other half of the barn is for calves from 310 to 520 pounds. It is naturally ventilated and has three 12' x 14' group pens along a partly open front wall. Calves in each of the six group pens have access to 12' x 12' outdoor pens.

Manger details included in the plan are for a hay and grain ration or feed in bunks along outside pens. Hinged pen partitions and sliding doors permit tractor scraping.

The plan, MWPS-72363, is available from the extension agricultural engineer, 201 Agricultural Engineering Building, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108. The cost of the plan is \$2.00 plus \$.08 sales tax. Make checks payable to the University of Minnesota.

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SPECIAL YOUTH PROGRAM  
FEATURED AT HARVEST BOWL

A special program for members of 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA), including a keynote address by Twins pitcher Geoff Zahn, will be held as part of Harvest Bowl at the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus Nov. 16-17.

Zahn will speak on leadership 2:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16 at the Classroom Office Building. Group discussions on career opportunities in plant, animal and food sciences, agri-business, education and communications will be guided by university graduates and faculty at 3:15 p.m.

On Saturday, several career development workshops will start at 9 a.m. in the Earle Brown Center. "Getting Finance to Start Farming" will feature Doug Kuehnast, loan officer for the state Farm Security Program. FFA and 4-H members will talk about leadership and careers in their workshops. Scott McKain, past national FFA secretary, will also address the group.

All youth and adults attending the Harvest Bowl celebration will be able to attend a Minnesota-Wisconsin football game at Memorial Stadium Saturday afternoon.

The youth program is free of charge but participants may wish to reserve tickets for meals and the football game. For more information, contact your county extension office before Nov. 10.

Harvest Bowl is open to interested persons without regard to race, creed, color, sex, national origin or handicap.

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Source: Dottie Goss (612) 373-0914  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

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#### CREDIT LAW CREATES NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Women can benefit from the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, a law which requires creditors to judge women on the same basis as men regarding ability and willingness to pay debt obligations.

"Women will need to take an active role in removing stumbling blocks to their credit worthiness," says Dottie Goss, an extension specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Goss suggests women open a bank account using a first name and a preferred last name (your husband 's last name, your maiden name or a combination last name). "Joint accounts tend to be regarded as a husband's property," Goss says. An inexpensive way to establish willingness to meet credit obligations is to obtain a store or bank credit card, again using the name of your choice.

The ability to pay is judged by the size of one's income, taking into consideration living expenses and outstanding debts. Income from other sources can be judged if it's steady and reliable. "Creditors cannot discount income derived from part-time employment, social security, public assistance, child support or alimony payments," Goss says. "In fact, you needn't report child support or alimony on an application form unless you choose to do so. If this information is included, make sure you can document it's steady and reliable income."

According to the law, a creditor is limited in making certain requests:

--You may not be asked about child-bearing plans or birth control practices. If pregnant when applying for a loan, a woman will need to have proof of her ability to pay during the time she may be away from work. Since it would effect ability to pay, you may be asked how many children you have.

add 1--credit law

--If you're not married, you may not be asked if you're single, divorced or widowed. An application form shouldn't request a form of address such as Miss, Mrs. or Ms.

--You cannot be asked your sex on an application except if the loan will be used to build or buy a home.

--A creditor cannot ask about your spouse's income if you're applying for an independent, individual account.

--You cannot be asked to have a co-signer unless others in similar situations would be required to do so.

--You cannot be asked to reapply for an account you presently have because your name or marital status have changed or you've reached a certain age.

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Harold Cloud 612/373-0764  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney 612/373-0714

CORN DRYING COULD TAKE  
DOUBLE ENERGY THIS FALL

High corn moisture content and the late harvest could double the amount of energy needed to dry shelled corn to safe storage levels this year. Harold Cloud, University of Minnesota agricultural engineer, outlines ways farmers can save fuel in corn drying.

"A lot of Minnesota corn will be harvested at around 30 percent moisture this year," the extension specialist reports. "Last fall, moisture levels were in the 19-24 percent range."

The late harvest means that more fuel will be needed to dry corn because of colder weather likely during the drying season. The combination of higher moisture and lower outside temperatures will probably mean that drying corn this year will take up to twice as much fuel as drying 24 percent moisture corn takes in a normal fall.

"Farmers can save fuel by reducing over-drying," Cloud says. "With properly-equipped, well-managed storage, shelled corn can be stored safely in Minnesota at 14 percent moisture for 12 months, 15½ percent from harvest through June, and at 16-17 percent from harvest through March."

A producer who dries to 15½ percent instead of 12 percent will probably save at least 13 cents per bushel in drying and shrinkage costs. He will also be able to dry corn more quickly, saving time while increasing dryer capacity.

Cloud lists drying methods that use less energy than high-speed drying (heating and cooling the grain in one unit). The alternatives are: dryeration, in-storage cooling, combination high-speed and natural air drying, and total natural air drying.

The last alternative, total natural air, is not recommended this fall because of the unusually high moisture levels. "Instead, corn should be put in a high-speed dryer until it's at the 22 percent level before using natural air for the rest of the process," Cloud advises. "This method should save large amounts of propane compared to using just high-speed drying."

County extension agents have publications that describe each of the alternative grain drying methods.

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Source: Dottie Goss (612) 373-0914  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

#### SHOP AROUND FOR THE BEST CREDIT AVAILABLE

It's always wise to be a comparison shopper. As inflation soars and interest rates climb, it's also important to comparison shop for credit, says Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota.

"According to a recent study, only one out of four credit seekers shops around for the best credit," Goss says. "Rates do vary from lender to lender, anywhere from 7½ percent to more than 30 percent annually."

One problem appears to be that consumers tend to overestimate their ability to obtain loans from finance companies who traditionally have higher interest rates and underestimate their ability to obtain loans from banks and savings and loan institutions that generally offer lower interest rates.

"By remembering two terms, you can compare credit prices from different sources," Goss says. "The Truth in Lending Act, requires that creditors tell you in writing before you sign any agreement the finance charge and the annual percentage rate (APR)."

The finance charge is the total dollar amount you pay to use credit. It includes interest costs and such costs as service charges, credit-related insurance premiums and appraisal fees. "For example, borrowing \$100 for a year might cost you \$7 in interest. If there were also a service charge of \$1, the finance charge would be \$8," Goss says.

The APR is the percentage cost of credit on a yearly basis. This is the key to comparing costs, regardless of the amount of credit or how long you have to repay it.

add 1--shop around

"Again, suppose you borrow \$100 for one year and pay a finance charge of \$8. If you can keep the entire \$100 for a whole year and then pay it all back at once, you're paying an APR of eight percent. But if you repay the \$100 and finance charge (a total of \$108) in 12 monthly payments of \$9 each, you don't really get to use the \$100 for the whole year. In fact, you get to use less and less of that \$100 each month. In this case, the \$8 charge for credit amounts to an APR of 14.5 percent," Goss says.

Even when you understand the terms a creditor is offering, it's easy to underestimate the difference in dollars that different terms can make. Let's suppose you're buying a \$5,000 car, and need to borrow \$4,000. Compare these three credit arrangements:

	APR	Length of loan	Monthly payment	Total Finance Charge	Total Cost
CREDITOR A	11%	3 years	\$131	\$716	\$4,716
CREDITOR B	11%	4 years	\$103	\$962	\$4,962
CREDITOR C	12%	4 years	\$105	\$1,056	\$5,056

"The lowest cost loan is available from creditor "A," Goss says, "but if you're looking for lower monthly payments, you could get them by paying the loan off over a longer period of time. However, you'd have to pay more in total costs. A loan from creditor "B" will add almost \$250 to your finance charge. If that four-year loan were available from only creditor "C", the APR of 12 percent would add another \$94 for your finance charges as compared with creditor "B". Other terms, such as the size of your downpayment, will also make a difference. Be sure to look at all the terms before you make your credit choice."

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Source: Robert Aherin (612) 373-0764

Immediate release

#### EXTRA CARE NEEDED WHEN USING GASOHOL

Take extra precaution when using gasohol says Robert Aherin, extension safety specialist at the University of Minnesota.

"Because gasohol is more volatile than conventional gasoline, it tends to build more pressure in fuel tanks," Aherin says. "Gasohol can erupt or spurt from a fuel tank, posing a fire hazard if spilled on a heated engine. You can avoid this problem by slowly unscrewing the cap."

Gasohol eruptions could be potentially more common on warm days or in tractors with mid or above-engine mounted fuel tanks. In these cases, the sun and engine add more heat and fuel tank pressure is increased.

The type of gasoline used to make gasohol also may affect the chance of eruption. Winter gasoline, used to start vehicles in the winter, is more volatile than summer grades. Spring gasoline falls somewhere in between these two extremes. If gasohol made from winter or spring gasoline is used on a warm day, there is more chance of eruption.

A clean fuel tank vent and a tightly fitting tank cap can help to reduce fuel tank pressure build-up. "Never use a non-standard or make-shift cap on your fuel tank when using gasohol," Aherin says. "Repair broken mufflers, leaky exhaust manifolds and missing heat shields to prevent heat from reaching the fuel tank."

Ideally, gasohol should be stored in an underground tank. If this isn't feasible, keep your storage tank in a shady cool spot and make sure it is properly ventilated.

Aluminum tanks, lines or connectors should not be used with gasohol. Alcohol picks up aluminum oxide and water creating a milky sludge that can make problems in an engine.

"You may notice more fuel tank leaks when using gasohol," Aherin says, "because it speeds the deterioration of gaskets and seals."

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Immediate release

WEATHER BRIEFS...

Late fall field drying... Earl Kuehnast, a state climatologist, has developed statistical relationships relating the rate of field corn drying to fall weather conditions over the past 15 years. Normally, during the mid-October to mid-November period, kernel moisture content will drop about one percent per week he says.

Based on Kuehnast's data, normal temperature and precipitation conditions through Nov. 15 will result in a four percent reduction in field corn moisture. Wet, cool weather could result in a one to two percent drying of grain from its present level, while abnormally warm, dry conditions could lead to as much as a six percent drop in moisture.

Presently, much of the full season hybrid corn still contains 30 to 35 percent moisture with very little drying occurring during the past week due to cloudy, cold and rainy conditions.

"Many farmers are hoping that the weather will knock a few more points off the moisture content before they combine," says Mark Seeley, extension soil scientist. "If this occurs, they will avoid having to pay significant penalties for drying and shrinkage at the elevator."

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Weather outlook through Nov. 15: The outlook for the first 15 days of November sees temperatures near normal early and late in the 15-day period with a cold surge in mid-period, according to John Graff, meteorologist with The National Weather Service. The greatest amount of precipitation could be heavy wet snow mixed with rain. This should fall during the warm to cold transition early in the period and again during the warm period after the cold to warm transition late in the period.

Temperature normals for Nov. 15: highs, 32 degrees F north to 42 degrees F south. Lows, 18 degrees F north to 24 degrees F south.

Precipitation normals for the period of mid-October to mid-November are 1.50 inches in the south to near 1.0 inches in the northwest.

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
October 29, 1979

Source: Dottie Goss: (612) 373-0914  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

#### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WITH BILLING ERRORS

Anyone who has ever received a bill for a wrong amount is familiar with the following emotions: anger, frustration and sometimes even fear. Do you know your rights when it comes to credit billing errors?

If the answer is no, take heart; in a recent survey, the Federal Reserve System discovered that 80 percent of those interviewed didn't know the legal requirements pertaining to this problem. Passed in 1975, the Fair Credit Billing Act requires companies offering open credit accounts (revolving charges, bank credit cards and check overdraft protection accounts) to promptly correct mistakes on bills.

According to the law, an error is any charge not made by you or someone authorized to use your account, errors in the amount charged, the date of the charge. Items not delivered or accepted upon delivery may not show up on your bill.

Other errors include failure to credit your account properly, computational or accounting mistakes or failure to mail your bill to a current address if notified at least 10 days before the end of the billing period.

"If you feel the bill is wrong or need more information to determine if it's correct, write the creditor within 60 days after the bill is mailed to you," advises Dottie Goss, an extension specialist at the University of Minnesota. "Be sure to include your name, account number, the amount of the error and why you think a mistake has been made."

The company must acknowledge in writing that it is aware of the problem within 30 days. The company must correct the bill or notify you within 90 days why the contested bill is correct.

add 1--know your rights

While the bill is in dispute, a creditor may not give out information to credit bureaus or other creditors about a delinquent account. The creditor may not take any collection action or restrict the use of the account because of the dispute. The amount in dispute--what you believe is in error--can be applied to your credit limit.

"You will not have to pay the disputed amount or any finance charges while the problem is being worked out," Goss says. "You are obligated to pay other portions of your bill that are not in dispute."

Once the problem has been resolved, you will not pay any finance charges if the creditor made the error. If the bill was correct, the company may include finance charges and any minimum payments you missed while you questioned the bill.

"If you feel the creditor is not following lawful procedure, contact the Federal Reserve Bank System. The telephone number in Minneapolis is (612) 340-2345, or you may write to 250 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis, Minn., 55480."

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
October 29, 1979

Source: Marv Eisel (612) 443-2460  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

#### LAST CALL FOR ROSE PROTECTION

If you've not done so already, now's the time to prepare **your** roses for the long winter ahead.

"All roses should be given adequate protection except for those which are completely hardy," says Merv Eisel of the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. "You'll need to protect your plants against fluctuating and low temperatures."

Two methods are available to Minnesota rosegrowers, Eisel says. Tipping, a method recommended and used by most knowledgeable rosegrowers, boasts a higher survival rate than the other method which uses soil mounds to protect plants.

"By using the tipping method, you'll find most of your plants alive and growing come spring," Eisel says. "Since the plants are below the soil line, there's less chance for rodent damage. This is the method we use out here at the Arboretum."

Before tipping your roses, you may want to spray them with an all-purpose rose spray and cut off any buds or blossoms still on the plants. Taking off the blossoms is a matter of choice; it merely allows rosegrowers to have the very last blooms of the year for bouquets.

To begin, make a trench extending out from the base of the rose bush. Make the trench deep enough to accommodate the plant. Tie canes together in a bundle and gently tip the bush into the trench. To make tipping easier, loosen the soil around the plant with a spading fork.

Cover the plant with the soil you've taken out of the trench. Cover the soil with a foot-deep layer of leaves. Marsh hay, sold at most nurseries in the fall, may be added on top of the leaf layer.

add 1--last call for rose protection

In the spring, you'll want to remove all the coverings as the ground thaws, Eisel says. Carefully raise the plants, replace the surrounding soil and water if plants appear dry.

"Mounding is the second best method for protecting the roses, but only the very second best," Eisel says. "Mounding requires more labor than the tipping method and does not give you the best rodent protection. Still, many rosegrowers prefer the mounding method."

Start by tying the canes together. At the base of each plant, form a mound of six to eight inches of soil. Wire netting should be placed around the entire bed, to prevent the soil from blowing away. Fill in the enclosure with about three feet of leaves. Marsh hay may be used to cover the leaf layer, to prevent the leaves from blowing away. Plastic, tar paper or waterproof coverings should be avoided, Eisel says.

The mound cover may be removed sometime during the month of April, when temperatures are warm and the ground has become soft again. Remove the soil mound and water plants thoroughly if the ground is dry.

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add 2--help yourself help a friend

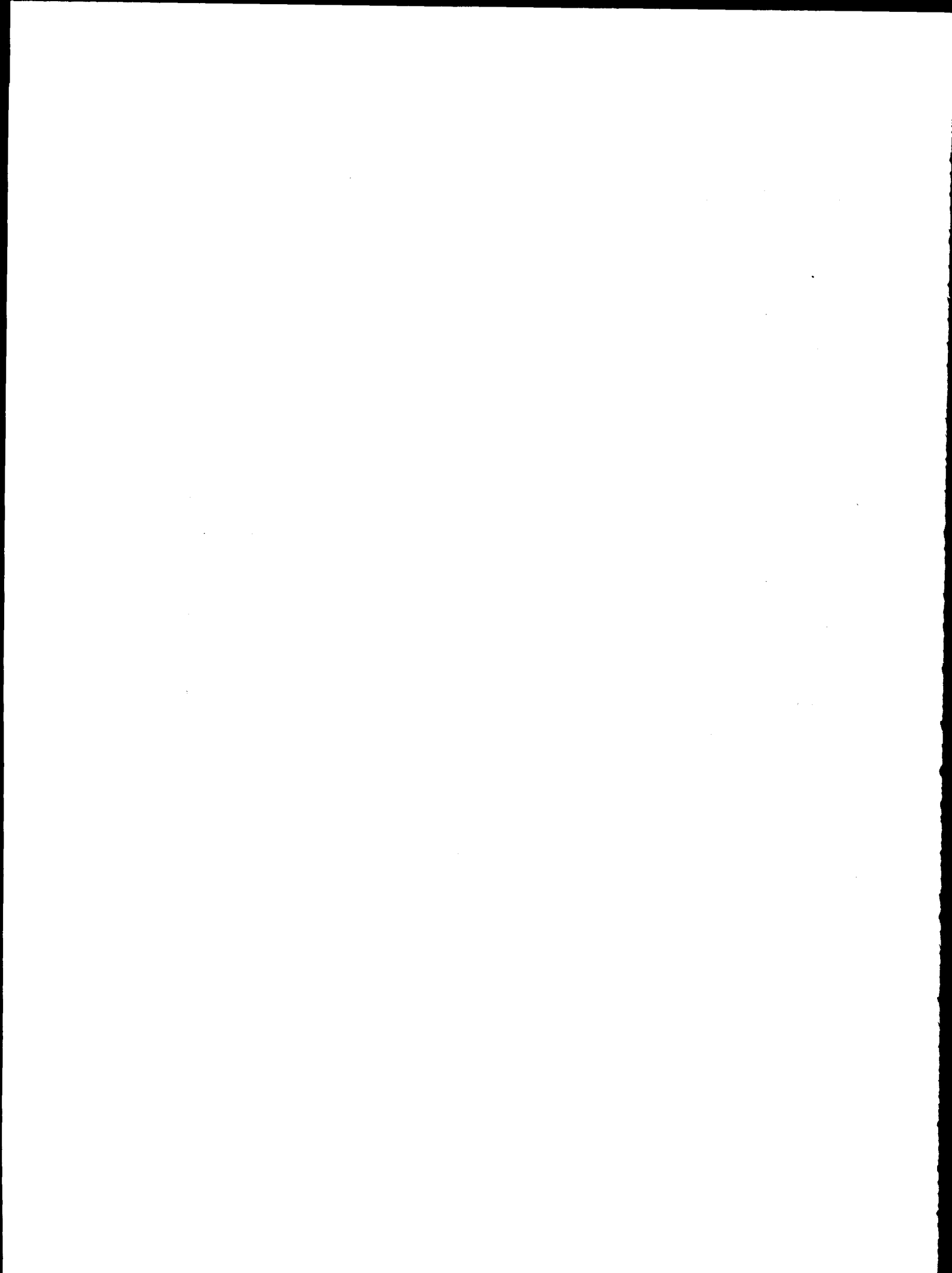
However, if you become involved with someone who may need more help than you can provide, it's wise to know your own limitations. You can help your friend by checking out the available referral agencies in your community. Individual counseling by a psychiatrist, a family service agency, a mental health center, a clinical psychologist or an accredited marriage counselor can often supply the needed help. Group help such as that coming from psychotherapy groups or Alcoholics Anonymous meets the needs of many.

"One way in which people avoid facing a crisis is to deny that they need any help," Pitzer says. "Part of helping a friend with a problem may be helping her to accept that a problem exists. A person in trouble desperately wants to be reassured, but the 'there, there, everything will be all right,' approach is not a help to a person in trouble, because it makes her weaker rather than stronger. The kind of reassurance that a person in grave difficulty needs is not the meaningless comfort that the crisis will take care of itself, but rather a statement of faith that she will be strong enough to work it out, backed up by a commitment to helping her along the way."

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Ronald Pitzer (612) 376-3851  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

#### HELP YOURSELF HELP A FRIEND

It's quite natural to feel inadequate when someone you care for very much comes to you with a problem. Actually, you can be more helpful than you probably realize. Genuine warmth and plain common sense can provide the much-needed comfort a troubled friend may be seeking.

"Many people feel that because they lack professional training, they are unable to help loved ones through times of need," says Ronald Pitzer, extension family life specialist at the University of Minnesota. "Professional crisis counselors use several methods which can be effective when someone you love needs your help."

Careful listening is something almost anyone can learn to do, Pitzer says. Ask your friend to tell you about her problem; ask when the problem began and how it has developed. Try to put yourself in her place. Try to recall how you felt in a similar circumstance. Don't assume that your friend's responses are or should be the same.

While listening, try to maintain eye contact without staring fixedly or with undue intensity, which could make your friend uneasy. Try to follow what your friend is saying by taking your cues from her. Jumping from subject to subject, interrupting and interjecting your own problems and opinions will discourage conversation.

Repeat back what you've understood to determine if you're on the right wave length. Repeat what you think your friend has said, asking if you're right. You might say, 'Is this how you feel?' or 'Is that it?'

add 1--help yourself help a friend

Finally, let your friend know you'd like to help her find some solutions to her problem, preferably actions that will help her to help herself.

"Focusing on a practical future is much healthier than dwelling on past wrongs and mistakes," Pitzer says. "It's amazing how often people make important decisions without taking the time to examine all the facts and options. It's important to look at all the pieces of the puzzle."

Encourage your friend to describe what she has already tried to do to ease the problem. Go over what she can and cannot control. Try to arrive at various solutions and help her examine each in terms of their probable consequence. Perhaps your friend will need more information before she can make a good decision. Gently lead her to some conclusion. Questions such as "What will happen if you do that?" or "Are you sure that would be a good idea?" might be helpful at this point of the conversation.

Your friend will need some plan of action and you can help her arrive at some type of decision. Encourage her to plan just how she will begin doing what she's decided to do; the plans should be realistic with achievable goals.

Without passing judgement, ask your friend to commit herself to this plan. Set a date when the plan will be put into action. If she has any resistance to making a firm commitment, help her discuss and resolve these feelings.

Let your friend know you'll continue to give her support. This doesn't mean you'll do anything for her that she can do herself if she has to. Point out to her that as she begins to do something, however small, she'll probably start to feel better about the problem. Ask her to call you soon to let you know how her action plan is working and by all means, make a date to see her again in the near future.

"The great bulk of everyday human troubles aren't usually serious enough to warrant professional help," Pitzer says. "Just knowing that someone is aware of our hurt feelings, worries or difficult decisions and that they care about us can mean a great deal. As someone once said, 'A joy shared is doubled; a sorrow shared is halved.' "



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Immediate release

#### SOYBEAN GROWERS INVEST MORE THAN \$200,000 IN RESEARCH

The Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council has invested more than \$200,000 in research to be conducted by the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Experiment Station.

More than \$110,000 of the \$204,875 total will be used to support on-going research projects from Oct. 1, 1979 to Sept. 30, 1980. More than \$35,000 was designated for new projects and \$59,000 for new research equipment.

On-going research projects receiving continued funding include soybean breeding, soils work, diseases, photosynthesis, rhizobium and soybean variety studies, tillage and nitrogen fixation, weed control using reduced amounts of chemicals, and reduced tillage.

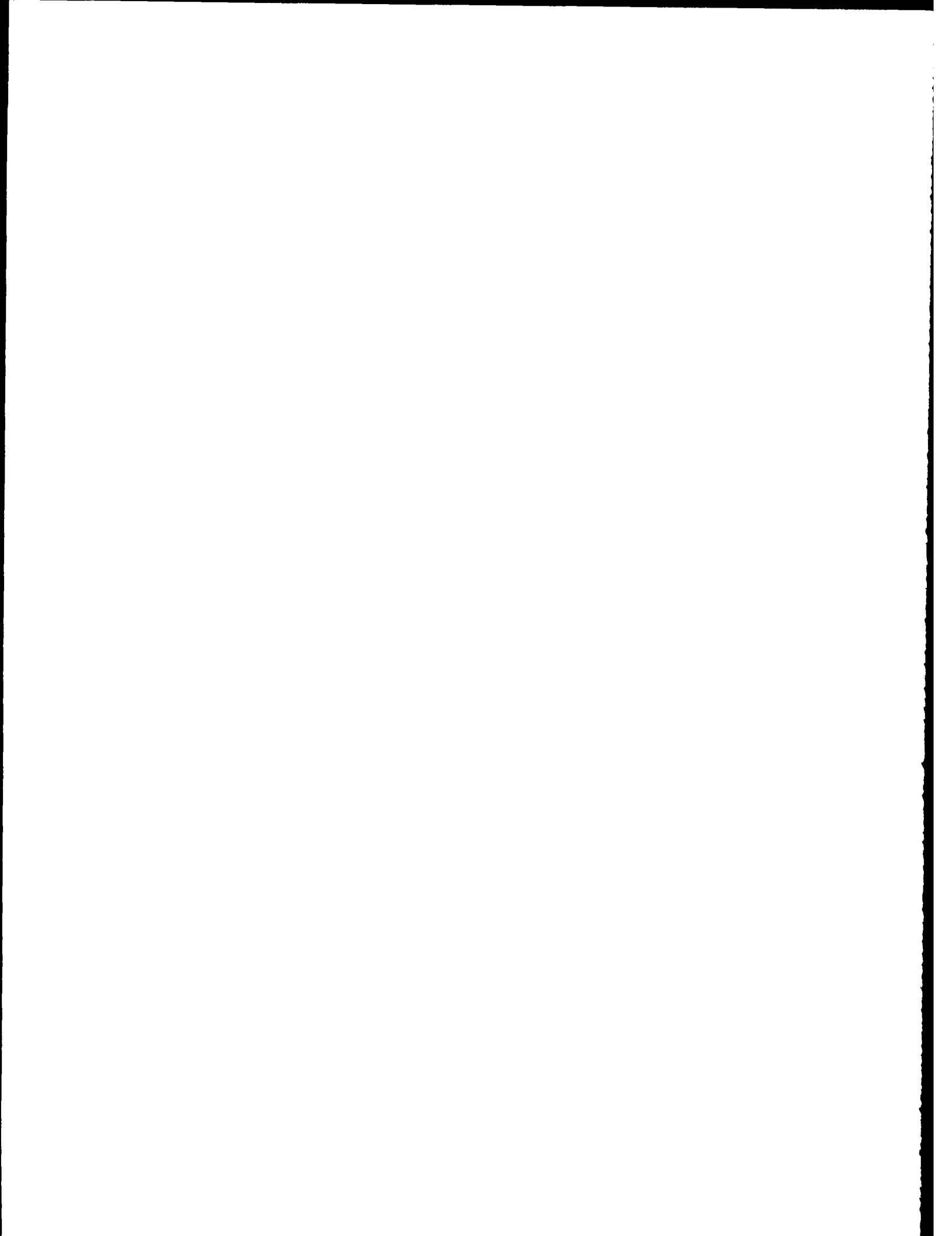
New funding was invested for research in nitrogen assimilation, soybean cyst nematode control, plant hormone research and establishing loss figures for bacterial blight.

New laboratory and planting equipment will be purchased with the new equipment funds.

About 40,000 Minnesota soybean growers contribute one cent a bushel for research and promotion.

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Merv Eisel (612) 443-2460

Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

## NOW'S THE TIME TO GATHER FALLEN TREE CONES

Autumn is the perfect time of year to collect cones which have fallen from trees. Merv Eisel of the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum suggests you look for cones near pine, larch, spruce and tamarack trees. Smaller cones are produced by hemlock and arbor vitae.

"Despite the damp season we've been having this fall, the cones I've seen around the Arboretum have had a nice, rich brown color," Eisel says. "They should look very attractive in holiday wreaths and centerpieces."

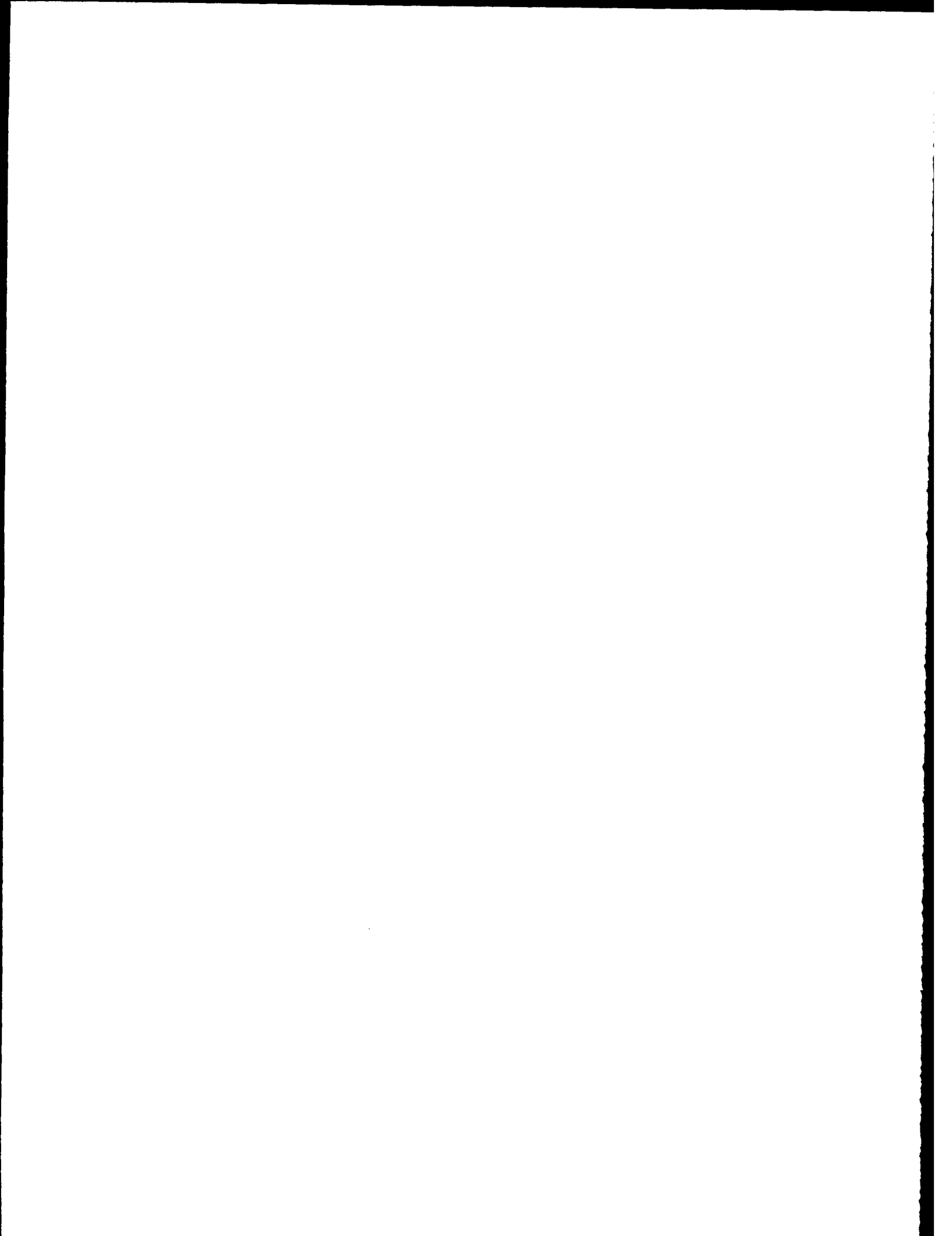
It's best to gather the cones as soon as possible after they've fallen off trees, Eisel says. Since moisture can cause mold and-or discoloration, you'll need to dry your cones.

Spread the cones in a shallow container, such as a baking sheet, with layers not more than two cones deep. Place them in a sunny warm spot or near a heat register or other heated areas in your home. Cones should be dry in a week to 10 days.

Some cones will be covered with a sticky substance known as pitch or resin. After drying the cones, place them on a foil-lined cookie sheet in an oven heated to about 250 degrees Fahrenheit. "There is no exact time period to follow when removing the pitch in the oven," Eisel says. "It's important to keep a steady watch over the cones, since they can become dark if left in the oven too long."

Adults supervision is recommended when cones are in the oven since they could create a fire hazard.

What can you do with the cones once they are dried? "Your own imagination is the limit," Eisel says. "I think it's best to use them in indoor decorations, as dampness can cause them to close. In any case, I prefer to see them left in their natural state. If you must coat them, use a non-glossy liquid for that natural effect."



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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Edna Jordahl (612) 373-0907

Immediate release

#### HOME CARE BRIEFS....

Removing candle wax from linens: A candle snuff or a plastic collar around a candle will prevent wax from being spattered on your fine linen tablecloths. If candle wax does drip onto table linens, remove as much wax as possible with a dull knife or spoon, advises Edna Jordahl, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota. After scraping, place the stained area between blotting papers or paper towels and iron lightly at a low temperature. Replace the papers frequently until no wax is left.

"If any stain remains, wipe it with a pad of absorbent materials dampened with dry-cleaning solvent," Jordahl says. "A diluted solution of chlorine bleach and water can be applied to stubborn stains with a Q-tip or medicine dropper. Before applying the bleach, test the fabric inside the hem. Flush the spot with cool water after about two minutes. Follow up with white vinegar and another flush of cool water."

\* \* \* \*

Keep marble beautiful: As it gets used in your home, marble may become dull but this situation is easily remedied, says Edna Jordahl, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Wash marble regularly with clean cloths and fresh luke-warm water, Jordahl says. Twice a year, use a mild detergent to remove any ingrained residue dirt.

If marble becomes scratched, you may buff the affected area and repolish with putty powder applied to a damp cloth. Polish by hand or with an electric polisher.

\* \* \* \*

- more -

add 1--home care briefs

Water conservation begins at home: Water is a precious commodity when it becomes scarce; you may be wasting water in a most inconspicuous place says Edna Jordahl, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Each flush of your toilet uses from five to seven gallons of water. Check your toilet for leaks after flushing. If there's a leak, you can be wasting up to 200 gallons of water each day!

To check for leaks, pour a small amount of food coloring into the tank. If the color trickles into the bowl, there's a leak to repair.

Reduce the amount of water used in the toilet by placing a plastic milk or a detergent bottle filled with water and sand or gravel into the toilet tank. The amount of water you'll save is equal to the amount displaced by the plastic container. Bricks do not displace as much water and clay particles can damage valves.

\* \* \* \*

Choose the best cleaning products for your needs: Buy household products according to your specific needs, says Edna Jordahl, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota. Before you buy any product, study its label and examine each product for its purpose, contents and methods of use. Then compare price ranges and select the product which fits your needs at the best price.

Also consider container size, Jordahl says. Large sizes are usually more economical and are normally good buys since they have a long shelf life and won't spoil before they're used. Store powdered cleaners away from moisture, which can make them lumpy.

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(Note to Agents: These items were taken  
from a USDA publication, "Energy Policies:  
Price impacts on the U.S. Food System.")  
Immediate release

ENERGY BRIEFS...

Role of energy in the food system: Over the past several decades, fossil energy has been both plentiful and inexpensive compared with other production resources. Consequently, the various segments of the total U.S. food system have become reliant upon fossil fuels and electricity. Of the 75 quadrillion Btu's of energy used in the United States in 1975, the food system--production through consumption--accounted for an estimated 16.5 percent. Direct and indirect energy use in farm production alone used less than three percent of the national total.

\* \* \* \*

Energy Costs on the farm: Expenditures for energy represent about eight percent of farm production costs. Farm production costs of \$75 billion in 1975 included approximately \$6 billion for energy. Of this amount, \$5 billion went to fuels and electricity; the balance went to fertilizers and pesticides.

Of the direct uses, pumping of irrigation water requires 20 percent of the total, more than any other farm production operation. Energy requirements for field machinery, transportation and other farm business operations account for the remainder.

The four major export crops--corn, wheat, cotton and soybeans--consume more than half the energy devoted to crop production. Corn production accounts for approximately one-fourth of all the energy consumed in farm production.

\* \* \* \*

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add 1--energy briefs

Energy costs and the consumer food bill: The American consumer has become increasingly aware of the effect of rising energy prices on utility bills and gasoline costs. Much less obvious are the secondary impacts of higher energy costs reflected in the prices of food and other goods and services.

Food system energy costs represented 12 percent of the \$200 billion consumers spent on food in 1976. Consumers paid another \$11.5 billion on energy used in the home for the storage, preparation and consumption of food.

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St. Paul, MN 55108  
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Source: Jim Linn 612/373-1014  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney 612/373-0714

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WEATHER DAMAGE CUTS  
QUALITY FORAGE SUPPLY

A shortage of quality forage may limit milk production this winter, says University of Minnesota dairy specialist Jim Linn.

Rainy weather aided growth of forages, but often damaged hay quality this summer, the extension scientist explains. Rain frequently delayed cutting and allowed nutrient loss to maturity. The two or more rains that fell on many first and second cuttings leached nutrients from these forages.

"Almost no vitamin A remains in cut hay subjected to more than an inch of rain, and calcium and phosphorus are reduced," Linn says. "Total digestible nutrients could be reduced as much as 40 percent by weather damage and harvest loss. Leaf loss accounts for a considerable cut in value because of protein loss."

Linn recommends that weather-damaged forages be tested for dry matter, crude protein, calcium and phosphorus content. He also encourages acid detergent fiber or crude fiber tests to evaluate energy content. "Your county extension office can provide information on the commercial laboratories in your area and on forage sample preparation," he says.

If your forage supply includes a large amount of weathered or mature hay or haylage, the forages should be separated according to quality. Top quality forages should be fed to cows in early lactation (first 90 days). Shorting these cows on nutrients will decrease milk production for the entire lactation.

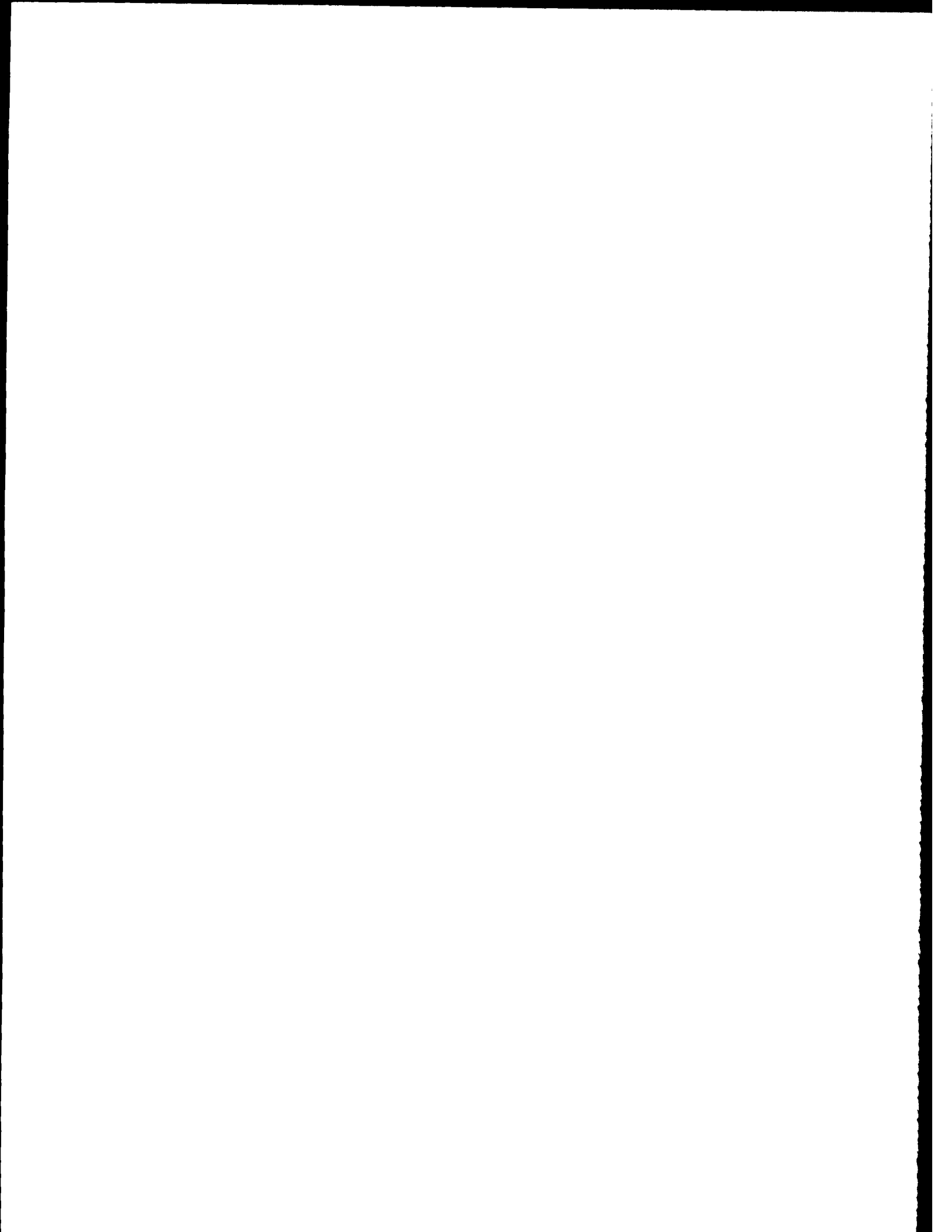
If the poorer quality forage must be used for milking cows, feed it in the latter stages of lactation. A few additional pounds of grain mix may be needed to supply required energy and other nutrients to these cows.

Rain damaged hay, which is high in fiber and low in energy, can be used to feed heifers and dry cows. However, a limited amount of grain may be needed to provide adequate amounts of energy for both heifers and dry cows. This will be especially true when the animals are kept outdoors or in cold housing this winter.

Supplemental vitamin A must be supplied to heifers and dry cows either in grain or by injection. Vitamin A deficiencies can weaken calves at birth and reduce conception rates in heifers. Calcium and phosphorus status of these animals should be checked and supplements should be provided if needed.

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St. Paul, MN 55108  
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Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

## CORN BRIEFS. . .

Another Harvest Crisis: Cool, wet weather is again hampering the corn harvest in Minnesota. Grain moisture levels are at about 28-30 percent. Very little field drying is likely this year. At least twice as much fuel will be needed to artificially dry corn as during a normal year, and fuel prices are drastically increased. University of Minnesota specialists say farmers have little choice but to harvest as field conditions allow, and find ways of holding shelled corn.

\* \* \* \*

Alternatives for High Moisture Corn: The optimum moisture content for storing shelled corn as silage is 30-35 percent, says Dale Hicks, University of Minnesota extension agronomist. Above 35 percent, some seepage may occur and fermentation may be less than desirable, especially if the silo is large.

Another alternative is to treat the corn with an organic acid. It can be fed to livestock, but not sold as grain.

If dryer capacity is the bottleneck in your harvesting process, corn can be stored preferably in a building for 15-30 days before drying, if air temperatures are below 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

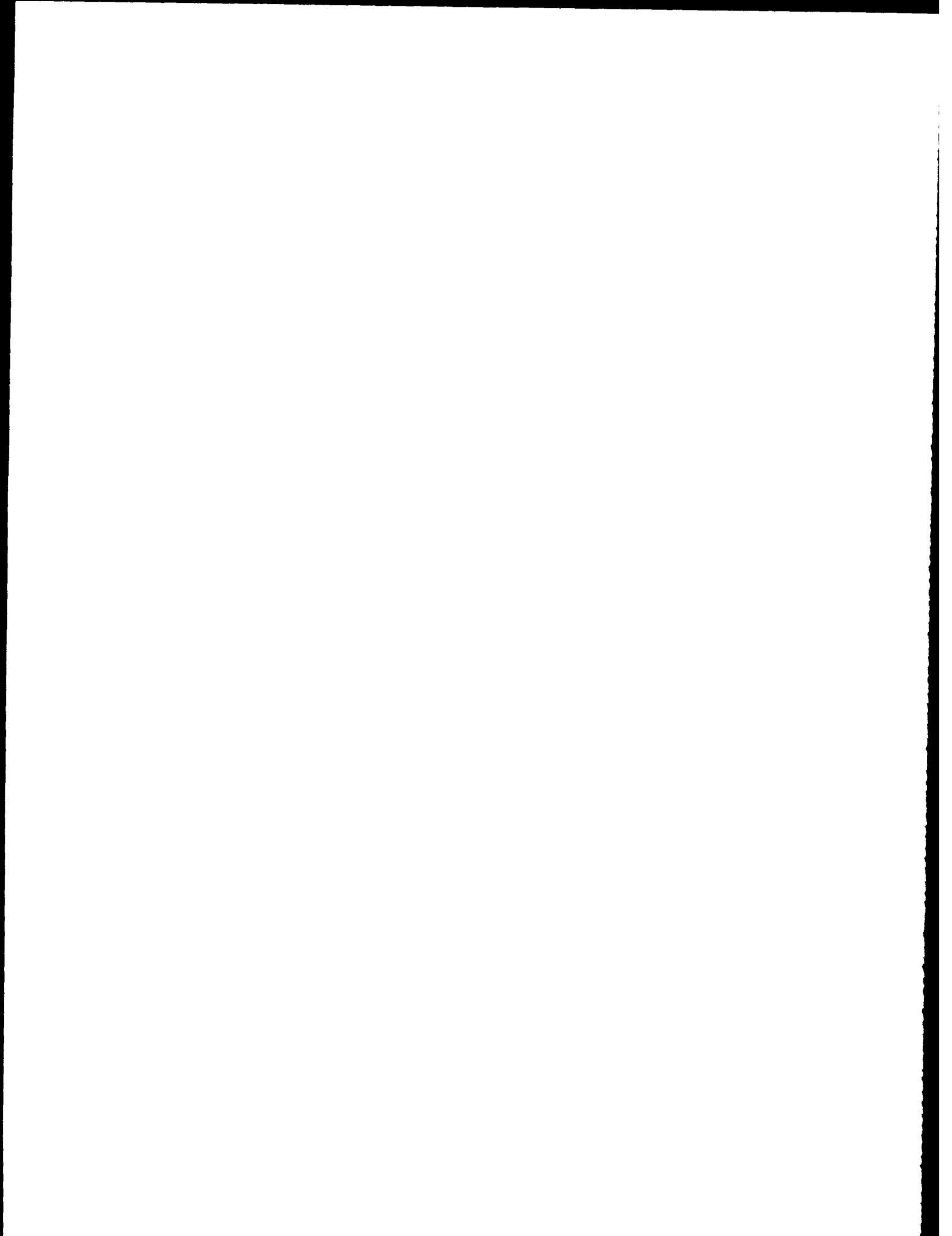
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Reduce Drying: Farmers with good aeration systems in their grain storage facilities may want to consider drying their corn less in order to save fuel and increase drying capacity. Vance Morey, University of Minnesota agricultural engineer, says aerated corn can be stored at 17-18 percent moisture at winter temperatures. This will hold the grain until late March or early April.

A good aeration system is one that controls grain temperature by moving small amounts of air through the corn. For more information on aeration and fuel-saving drying systems, contact your county extension agent.

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Source: Jerry Fruin 612/376-3563  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney 612/373-0714

TO SOLVE RAILCAR SHORTAGE:  
TIE EFFICIENCY WITH  
NEW CAR PURCHASES

Just buying railcars will not alleviate the car shortage for hauling grain, a University of Minnesota transportation specialist says. Cars must be used more efficiently.

In 1968, railcars averaged 19.5 trips per year, extension economist Jerry Fruin reports. By 1977, this average had fallen to 16.5 trips per year.

"Although our total capacity for grain rail shipment has increased, we are using that capacity less efficiently," Fruin says. "Turnaround time for a car is longer now than in the past."

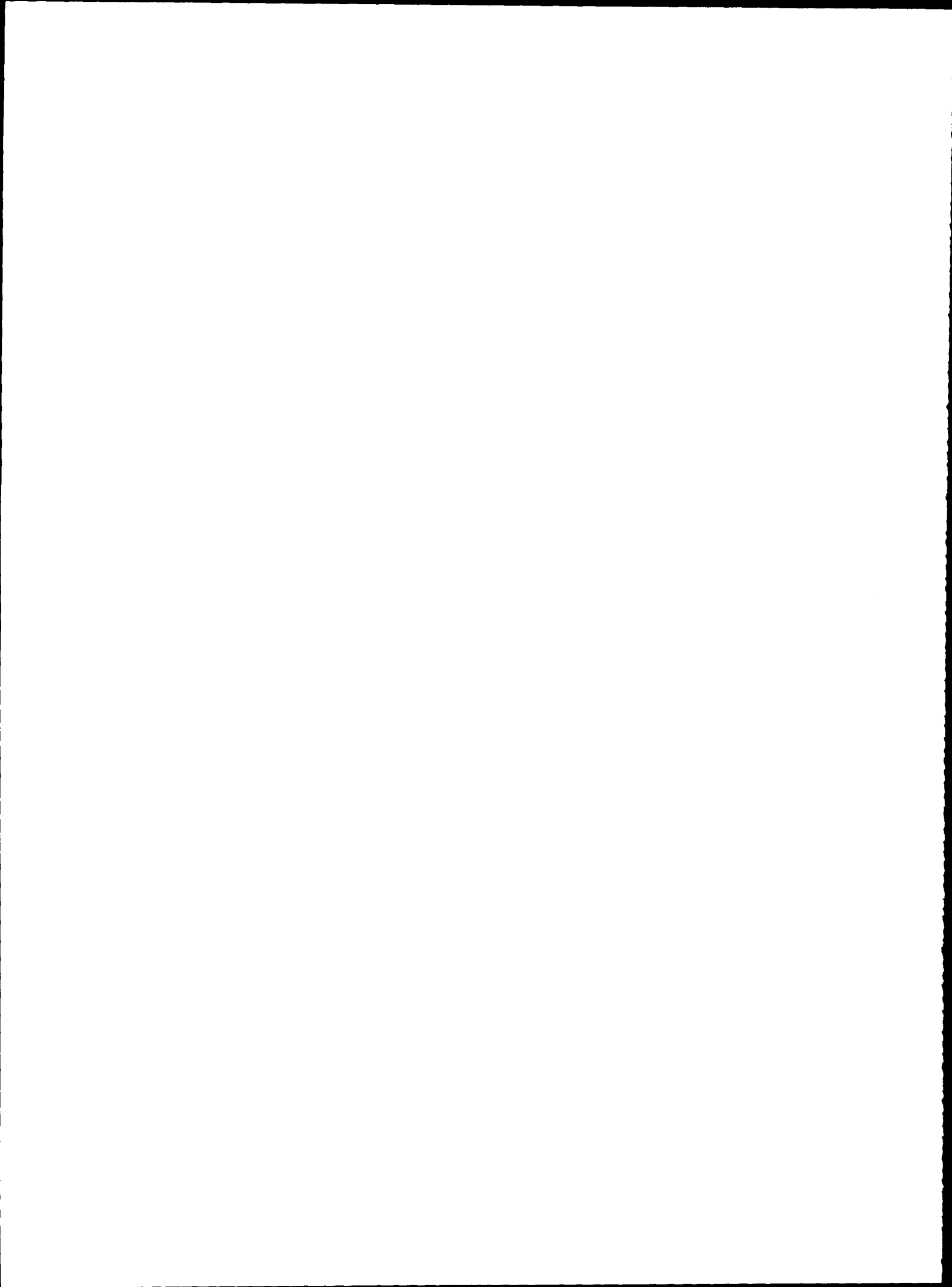
Railroad companies give various reasons for this loss in efficiency, including an increase in distances, unusually cold winters and poor locomotive maintenance. Fruin says railroads and shippers will have to work together to improve car usage.

"We need more locomotives as well as more cars," he emphasizes. "Movement through export terminals and other shipping destinations could be more efficient."

The railroads' share of U.S. grain movement is estimated to reach 116 million tons by 1985. This is 12 million tons more than the amount moved during the 1977-78 market season when grain car shortages were severe. Higher fuel costs for trucking and user fees on barge shipments are expected to increase the importance of railroads.

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Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

IN BRIEF. . .

Corn Rootworm Numbers: Counts of corn rootworm beetles this summer indicate there may be little change in the rootworm situation during the 1980 crop season. Numbers of adult rootworms this year averaged about the same for the state as they did in 1978. Some increase was found in the eastern part of Minnesota.

Extension entomologist John Lofgren says numbers are high enough to cause economic damage in fields where corn follows corn. His first recommendation is to rotate to another crop whenever economically possible. If crops are not rotated, an insecticide should be used. Since some insecticides seem to lose effectiveness when used on the same field too often, he advises rotation of chemicals.

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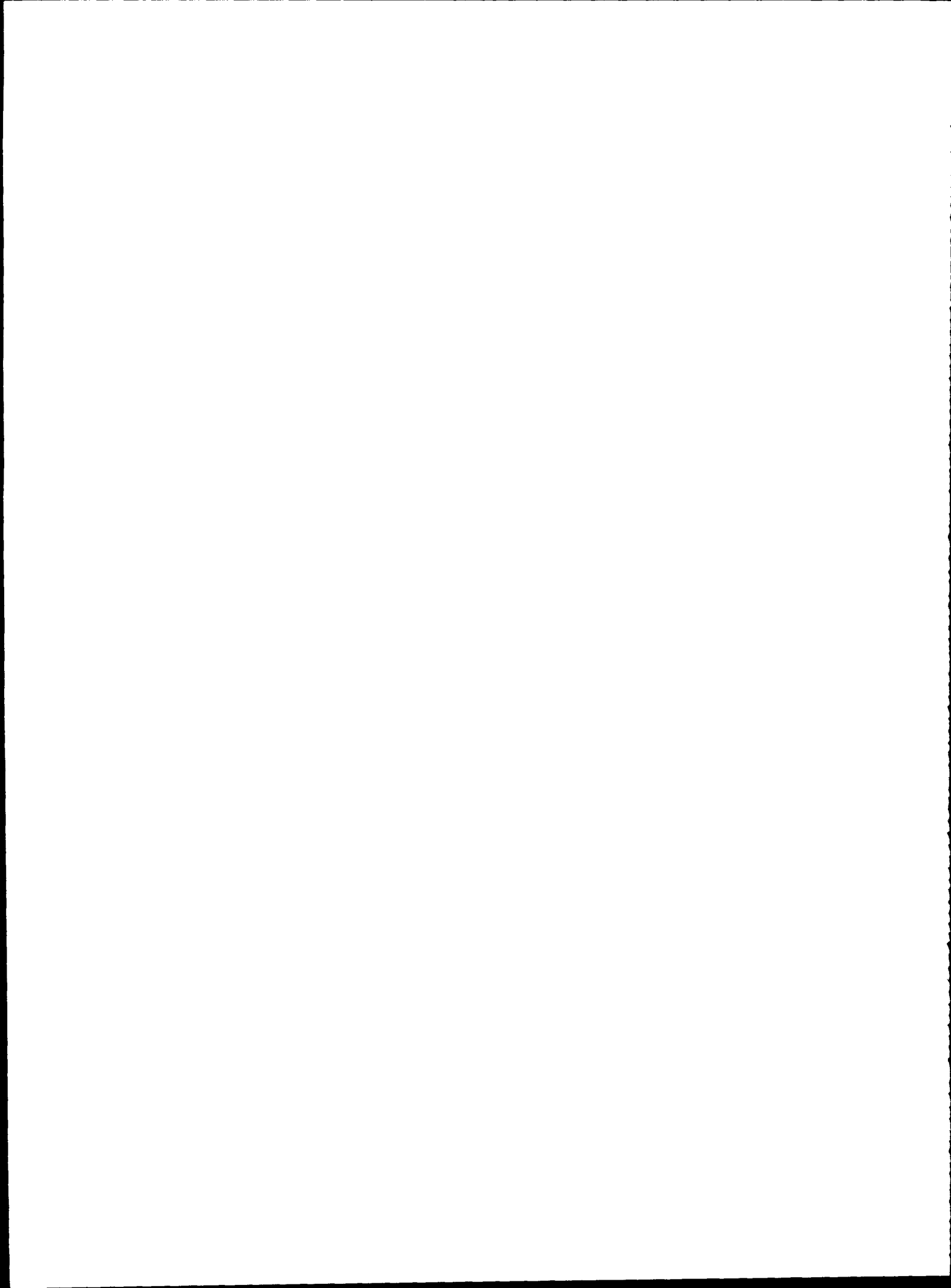
Sugar Program Continues: Although the 1979 Sugar Bill was defeated by the U.S. House recently, some price protection is likely to continue, a University of Minnesota extension economist says.

"Under the 1949 sugar legislation, the Secretary of Agriculture can provide a sugar price support loan program. He is also authorized to impose import fees to achieve a price objective of 15 cents per pound of the raw product."

World sugar supplies are down from last year and the price has strengthened over the past half year, Christiansen says. Prospects for the year ahead are that world consumption will exceed production.

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CONSUMER BRIEFS. . .

Buying a mobile home? If you're thinking of buying a mobile home, take a careful look at the warranty. A recent Federal Trade Commission (FTC) report indicates this is one area where warranties pose "nagging" problems.

"While manufacturers do warrant the products, the responsibility for service is often delegated to dealers," says Dottie Goss, an extension specialist at the University of Minnesota. "Shoppers should examine the warranty for the extent of its coverage, determining who is designated to provide service. It's a good idea to have a written agreement with the persons designated to give service, outlining what you can expect in the way of service and the promptness with which it will be performed. In some cases, dealers do not have any agreement with manufacturers regarding service."

Common problems cited by the FTC include the failure of dealers to inspect mobile homes prior to sale; the lack of competent personnel for setting up mobile homes and delays in service due to the lack of equipment, parts and service personnel.

"To protect yourself against frustration and perhaps the lack of a liveable home, investigate the ability of the dealer and service personnel to set up and service your mobile home before you buy," Goss says.

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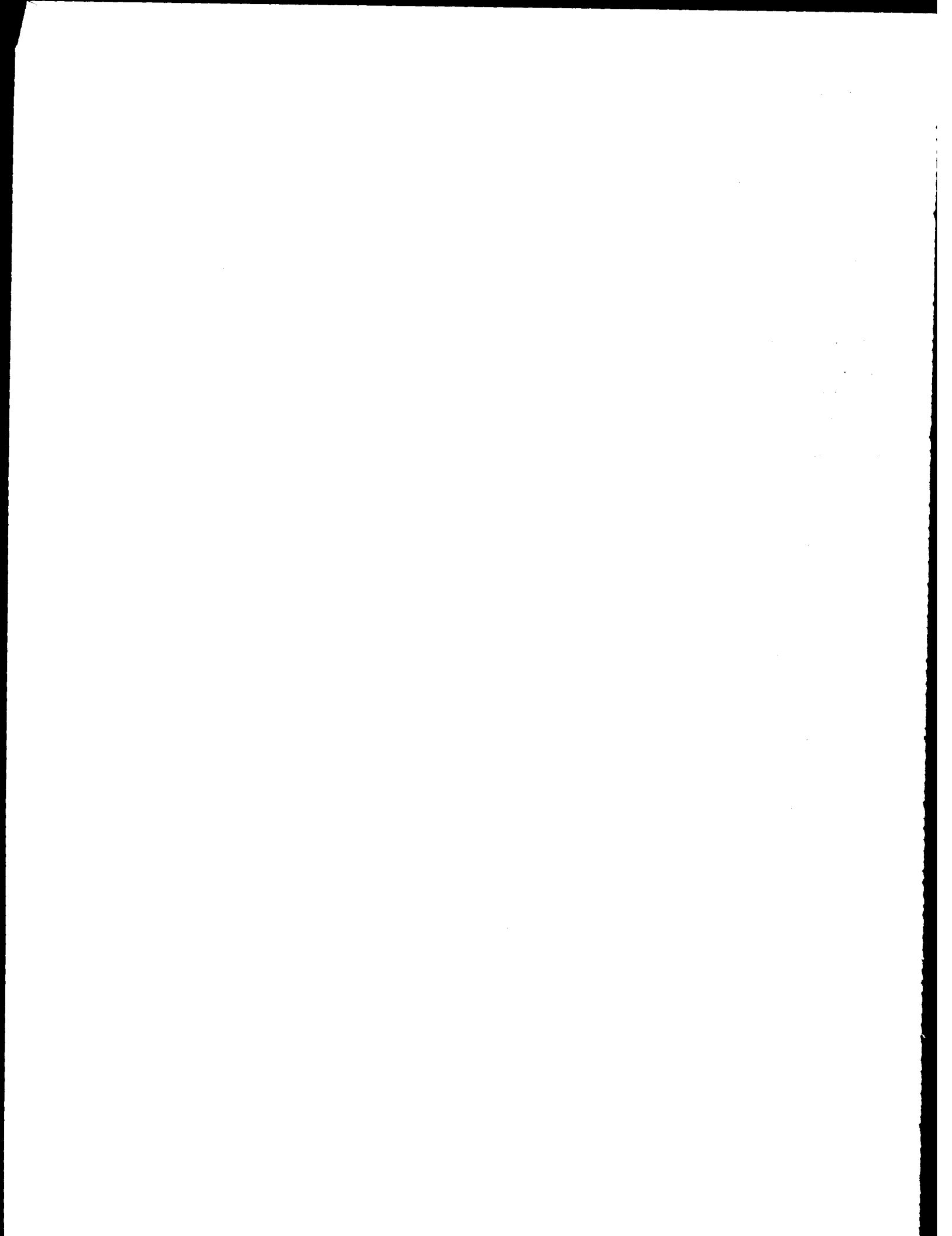
Report safety problems. The Consumer product Safety Commission has established a new toll-free telephone number. If you want to report a safety problem with a consumer product, make a complaint and/or ask for information, call the Commission at 800-638-8326.

\* \* \* \*

Finding a second opinion: Many people protected by Medicare medical insurance have had a doctor recommend non-emergency surgery. These people want to get a second opinion but don't know where to obtain one, says Dottie Goss, an extension specialist at the University of Minnesota.

"To help these people, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has set up a toll-free number to call when you need help locating another doctor to give a second opinion regarding surgery," Goss says. "Call 800-325-6400 for details."

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CHILD:  
FAMILY TRADITIONS ADD  
RICHNESS TO HOLIDAYS

Building a creche, decorating gingerbread men, stringing cranberries and popcorn -- the list of holiday traditions enjoyed by families stretches endlessly.

Ronald Pitzer, extension family life specialist at the University of Minnesota, says traditions contribute to strong family ties. Although traditions can be as simple as a special breakfast on Sunday mornings or a routine such as distributing allowances, the traditions associated with holidays have a way of surviving. These are often passed on from one family to another as children grow into adults and start families of their own.

"Some people think that family traditions went out of date with the horse and buggy," Pitzer says. "But the truth is that they are widespread and, indeed, a key to family happiness."

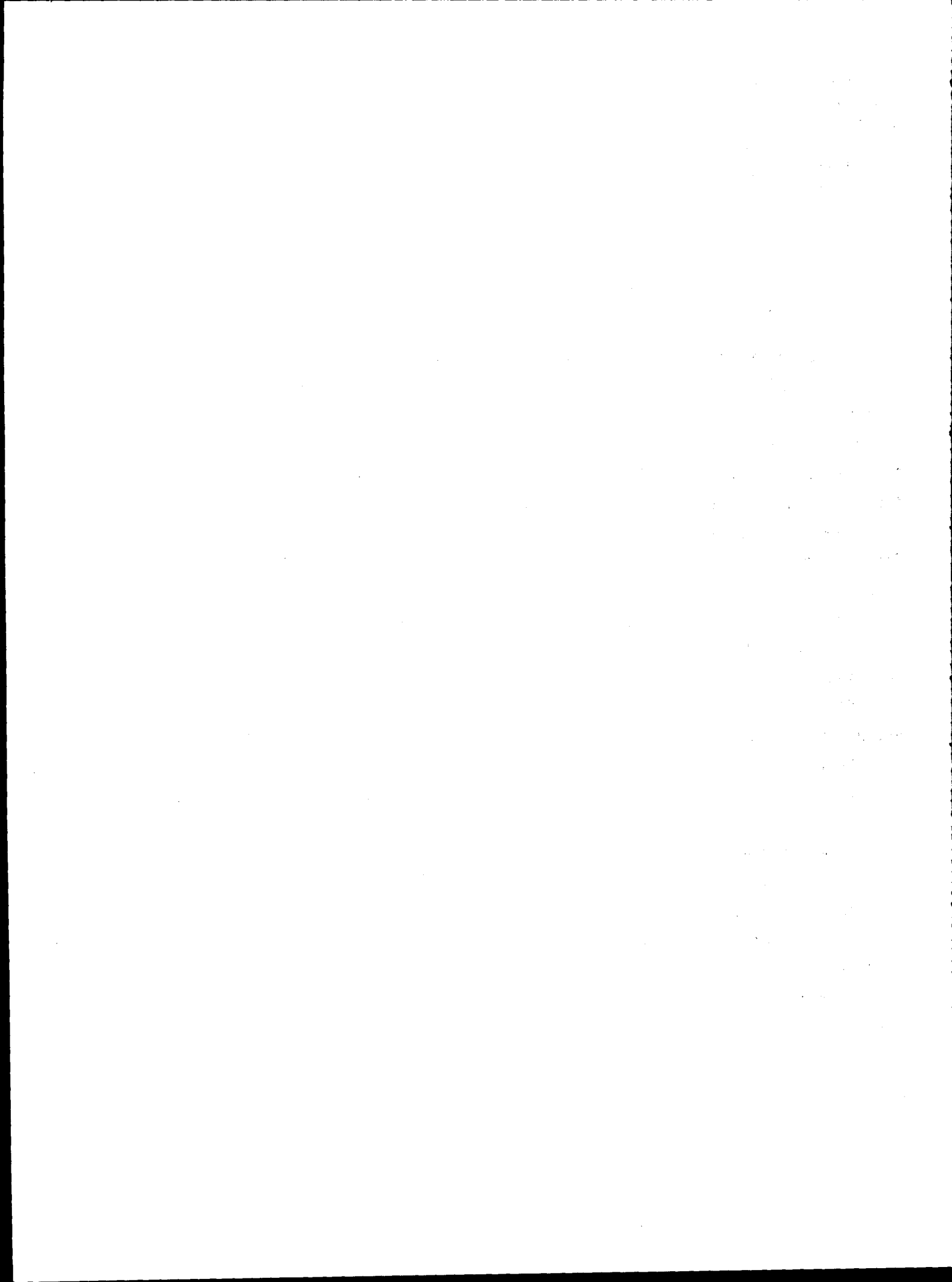
Some traditions are handed down from generation to generation, but Pitzer encourages families to establish others. During International Year of the Child, he suggests that families take stock of rituals that they enjoy and work to make firm traditions of them.

"Traditions and rituals show the young child a new side to parents and grandparents. And activities that are fun come to be associated with the persons who share the enjoyment."

Anything that a family likes well enough to repeat regularly develops into a tradition, Pitzer says. Some evolve gradually so that family members can barely recall how they started. Family birthday celebrations fit into this category. The ritual of sharing cake, ice cream and gifts may take on new elements each year. Soon a family has an elaborate routine for birthdays including certain foods, guests or privileges for the birthday celebrant.

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

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Lewis Hendricks (612) 373-1211  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE GETTING  
WHEN BUYING FIREWOOD

If you have a fireplace, woodburning stove or furnace in your home, now's the time to shop around for firewood. For those who are buying firewood for the first time, quantities and relative costs may be confusing.

A standard cord is eight feet long, four feet wide and four feet high, or 128 cubic feet.

When a cord of logs is sawed and split into firewood, the solid wood content remains unchanged but the overall pile volume becomes somewhat less than 128 cubic feet because pieces will then pack together more tightly. Minnesota law states that a cord of logs sawed into firewood lengths and stacked neatly shall occupy 110 cubic feet of space and a cord of logs sawed, split, and stacked neatly shall occupy 120 cubic feet of space.

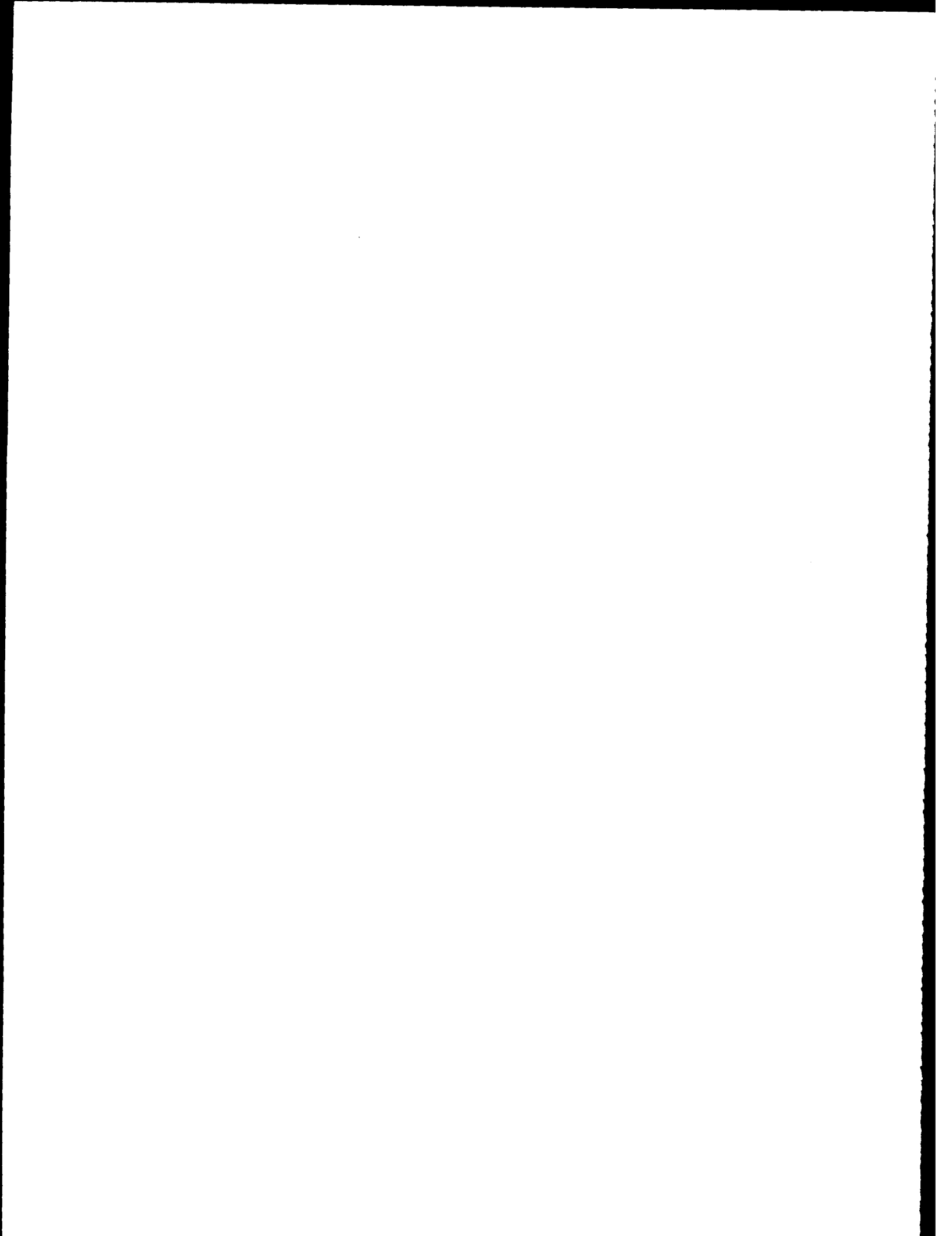
A truckload will vary depending on the size of the truck's bed and the type of wood being purchased. Suppose the wood has been cut to length and split. After the truck is unloaded and the wood is stacked, multiply the length, width and height of the stack in feet and divide by 120 to obtain the portion of cord you have. As an example, eight feet x four feet x 16 inches = 42 cubic feet; 42 divided by 120 equals .42 or about one-third of a cord.

"No matter how you're buying firewood, use the cubic measurement of the wood to compare prices," says Lewis Hendricks, extension forester with the University of Minnesota. "This will help you to know a true bargain."

In addition to quantities, you might want to know what type of wood is best for burning.

Hendricks recommends you look for hickory, red and white oak, sugar maple and white ash, which are long-burning woods with high heat output. Pine and cedar are excellent for kindling, but will only produce short-burning fires. In any case, always look for dry, lightweight wood over green wood, he says; dry wood can give up to 50 percent more heat, is safer to burn and is easier to kindle than moist, green wood. Ask the seller how long the wood has been air-dried. Nine to 16 months is the recommended minimum length of time for air-drying the denser woods, while split birch, pine or basswood may dry in as little as six months.

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
Nov. 5, 1979

Source: Wanda Olson (612) 373-0913  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

### COLD WATER WASHING TIPS

Many people have switched to cold water wash and/or rinse cycles to save energy when doing laundry. If this is true in your home, there are several facts you should know.

"Here in Minnesota, our cold water temperature is never as high as recommended by detergent manufacturers," says Wanda Olson, extension household equipment specialist at the University of Minnesota. "This is especially true in winter, when water temperatures are quite low. As a general rule, cold water washing is not as effective as one would find warm or hot water washing to be."

There are several remedies, however:

- Always pre-treat oily, greasy stains when washing in cold water.
- Always use normal to high agitation, or the equivalent found on your machine.
- Adding extra detergent and using the longest washing cycle available on your clothes washer will improve the effectiveness of cold water washing.

You may want to add a disinfectant along with your detergent whether you're using a hot, warm or cold wash, Olson says. Warm or cold water washing alone does little to reduce the spread of bacteria on clothing, sheets and towels. There are four products used for sanitizing, but the two most commonly available are chlorine bleach and pine oil.

Pine oil works best in hot or warm temperature washes, Olson says. Liquid chlorine bleach is very effective and may be used in any temperature wash. Chlorine bleach should not be used when cleaning silks, wools or elastics. It's best to check the label on your garment and follow manufacturer's instructions.

# # # #





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November 5, 1979

FARM FAMILIES NEEDED  
FOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Farm families in Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota and North Dakota are needed to host international agricultural student-trainees for eight months of practical training and work experience from March to November 1980.

Students are sponsored by the Minnesota International Student-Trainee Agricultural Exchange Program which has provided practical and academic training for over 1200 international student-trainees since 1949. The program is administered through the Office of Special Programs, a unit of the Agricultural Extension Service at the University of Minnesota.

Nearly 100 student-trainees from ten European countries, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, India, and Uruguay are expected to participate in the 1980 exchange program.

Student-trainees wish to live with an American farm family to 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.

Upon completion of the eight month training program with a farm or ranch family, the student-trainees are enrolled for the winter quarter study period at the University of Minnesota.

Most student-trainees come from farms or have agricultural backgrounds and plan to return to their home farms or to develop careers in agriculture after taking part in the exchange program.

add one--farm families needed

Student-trainees participating in the program have completed high school. Students presently in the program average 23 years of age, have finished three years of agricultural college and have two years of farm work experience. All student-trainees have basic English communication abilities and want to develop full proficiency before returning to their home countries.

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

- 1) Accept the student-trainee as a family member.
- 2) Be interested in the student-trainee as a person and as a representative from another culture.
- 3) Provide the student-trainee with practical on-the-job agricultural training and work experience.
- 4) Be able to pay the student-trainee \$375 to \$400 a month, provide room and board and laundry.
- 5) Be willing to introduce the student-trainee to other members of the community.

Families interested in hosting a student-trainee may receive a booklet that explains the program and contains an application form by contacting the Office of Special Programs. Host family applications should be received at the University by December 31, 1979. For further information, write or call:

Fred D. Hoefer  
Program Coordinator  
Office of Special Programs  
University of Minnesota  
405 Coffey Hall  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
(612) 373-0725

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Department of Information  
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Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
November 12, 1979

SOURCE: M. Janice Hogan (612) 373-1856  
WRITER: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

#### ENERGY CONSERVATION: DECISIONS MUST BE MADE

If you give it some thought, you'll quickly realize that energy-related decisions are part of just about everything we do.

In housing, we make decisions about the type of home we live in, its size, location and what type of weatherization measures to install. We decide where to travel, how often, in what type of vehicle and whether to use public transportation. We make decisions about cleanliness--how long to stay in a hot shower, when to throw clothes down the laundry chute and which wash temperatures to use.

About one-third of the energy in this country is consumed by households for in-home and transportation purposes. "How much family members consume and how they switch to energy alternatives are very important choices that will have implications far into the future," says M. Janice Hogan, University of Minnesota family social scientist. "There has been a significant movement toward decreased energy consumption in some individual and isolated cases, but in reality, energy conservation has hardly begun."

Hogan and four graduate assistants recently completed a study examining the process families go through when making energy conservation decisions. Data was collected from 40 Twin Cities families over a one-year period.

Some families are having a hard time arriving at conservation solutions that are agreeable to all family members, the study showed.

"Conflict surrounding energy conservation decisions was found in one out of three families," Hogan reports. "The most common conflict concerned temperature preferences in the home."

add one--energy conservation: decisions must be made

For the most part, Hogan says, adults most often make the final decisions and expect the rest of the family to implement their energy-use policy.

Comparing the adults in the home, males showed more comprehensive knowledge about energy alternatives than females, leaving Hogan to conclude that women will need more knowledge and skill about energy conservation to more fully participate in conservation decisions, especially those women who are single.

No matter what one's situation is, Hogan feels that energy conservation education is a must, and that it should encompass conflict resolution skills to help families reach decisions in an intelligent, peaceful manner.

"We all must start making conservation decisions; in time it may not be an option but a necessity," Hogan says. "For those families who started implementing conservation in their homes, many found it to be a satisfying challenge. In our study, families in both lower and upper income groups exhibited this attitude."

# # # #

CA,HEp-II,PII-p

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Tel. (612) 373-0710  
November 12, 1979

Source: Bob Appleman 612/373-1014  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

#### DAIRY BRIEFS. . .

Dairy Housing: Eighty percent of Minnesota's Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) herds are housed in stall barns. Production per cow in these barns exceeds that of parlors by 512 pounds of milk.

"These differences may, in part, be due to herd size, which averages 39 cows for stall barns and 70 for parlors," says Bob Appleman, University of Minnesota extension dairyman. "Most parlor-milked herd operations also do not group cows according to level of production and do not feed cows as efficiently and economically as stall barn operations."

When herd size approaches 110 cows, one can afford to have four groups,-- one dry group and three milking groups. When this occurs, free-stall operations can be competitive with stall barn herds in production per cow, and because of improved labor efficiency, may be even more profitable.

\* \* \* \*

The Computer Age: Dairying is gradually moving into its next phase of technological development--computerization. The "hardware" consists of small individual complete units often called mini-computers, and remote terminals tied into a large computer at a university or agribusiness corporation.

"Use of mini-computers and terminals is now practical for the larger dairies," says Bob Appleman, University of Minnesota extension dairyman. "Several automated individual cow identification systems are now being field tested and introduced commercially. Once automated milk measuring devices are perfected, tied to a cow identification scheme, and the milk production data is stored in a computer, the potential uses are limited only by the imagination of management."

add one - dairy briefs. . .

Information that can be collected and stored daily through computers include the individual cow's milk yield, grain consumption, reproductive status, health, and need for special handling. Once stored, such information can be retrieved at will, summarized and tied into production and profit.

\* \* \* \*

Measuring Milking Efficiency: Looking at the POUNDS OF MILK per operator-hour is a more meaningful measure of efficiency than the number of cows milked per operator-hour. Bob Appleman, extension dairyman, notes that measuring pounds takes into account milk yield per cow per milking, as well as cow numbers.

Another important measure is DEBT CAPACITY PER COW. A reasonable goal for dairy farm operations is to sell 500,000 to 600,000 pounds per man per year. If this goal is met, the debt carrying capacity per cow may approach \$2,500.

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November 12, 1979

Source: Herman Vossen 507/752-7372  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

KEEP THOSE  
BABY PIGS  
COMFORTABLE

Keeping baby pigs warm and dry is always vital in the hog production business, says Herman Vossen, area specialist for the University of Minnesota.

For pigs weighing 20 pounds or less, the temperature should be 85 degrees F on the surface of the floor where they nest. At 20-40 pounds, about 80 degrees is best. Using heaters that radiate to the nesting surface is generally the most energy efficient way of maintaining these temperatures.

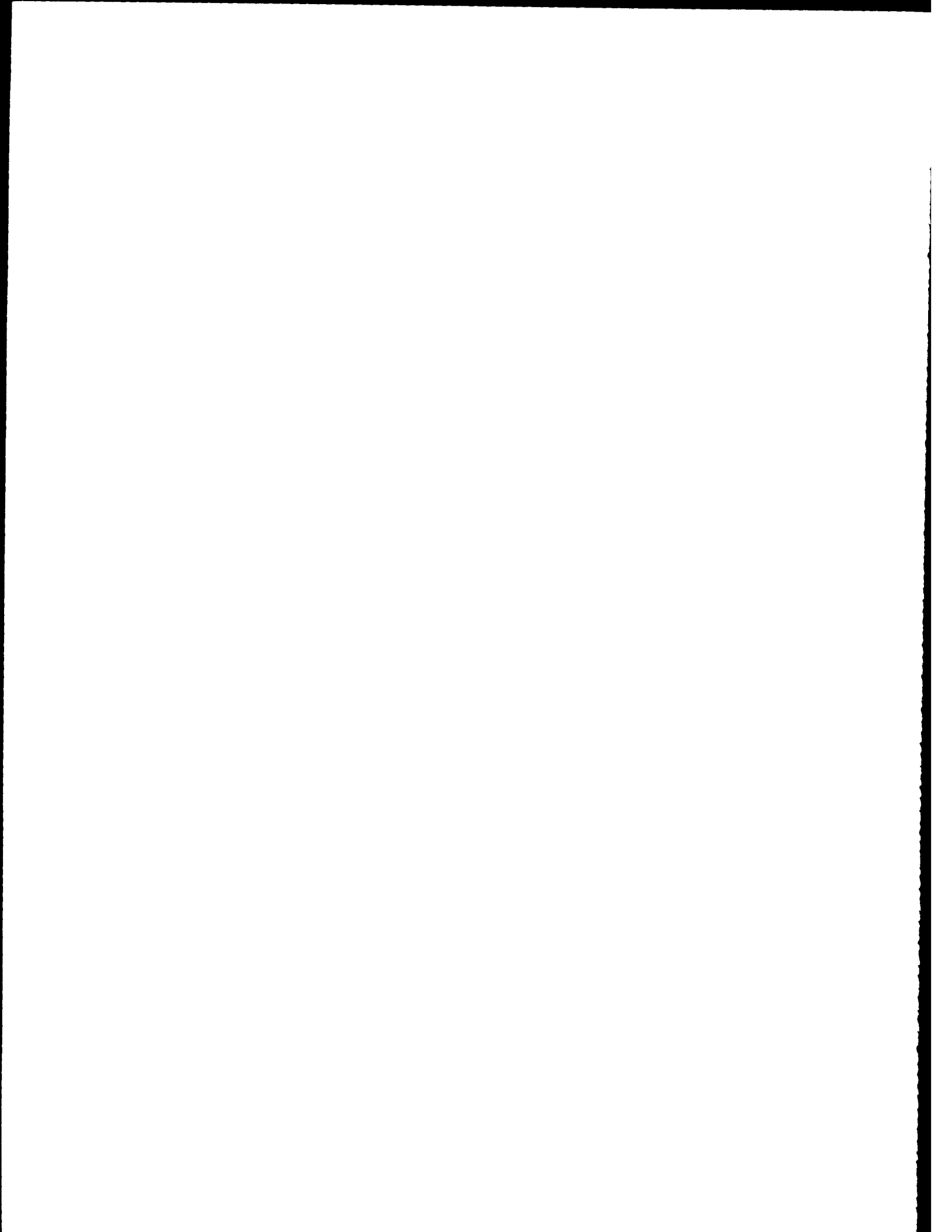
Vossen, who is stationed in Lamberton, has served as extension livestock agent for the southwest corner of Minnesota for 11 years. He estimates that he helped plan more than 400 new and remodeled hog buildings in the last two years.

"The nursery and farrowing buildings are the really touchy ones," he says. "Pigs should be off the cold, damp concrete and on raised floors. You need to get the moisture out of the building with proper ventilation. And you must get the manure out from under those raised floors."

Vossen advises that scrapper systems or natural flow gutter systems be used to carry manure to outside pits. "Nursery and farrowing facilities must have manure storage areas outside," he says. "There should be as little gas from manure in these buildings as possible."

The pay-off for keeping pigs comfortable is control of scours, pneumonia and other health problems. Not only do death losses decrease, but warm dry animals gain weight faster with greater feed efficiency.

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Tel. (612) 373-0710  
Nov. 12, 1979

Source: Ray Arthaud 612/373-1166  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

USDA'S FEEDER CATTLE  
GRADE SYSTEM IMPROVED

The new official grading system used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for reporting feeder cattle prices is an improvement over the old system, says University of Minnesota extension animal scientist Ray Arthaud.

"The old standards, which were adopted in 1964, didn't have much bearing on performance or correlation to the new carcass grades," Arthaud says. "They generally reflected what were thought of as 'nice-looking' cattle, not necessarily good performing cattle."

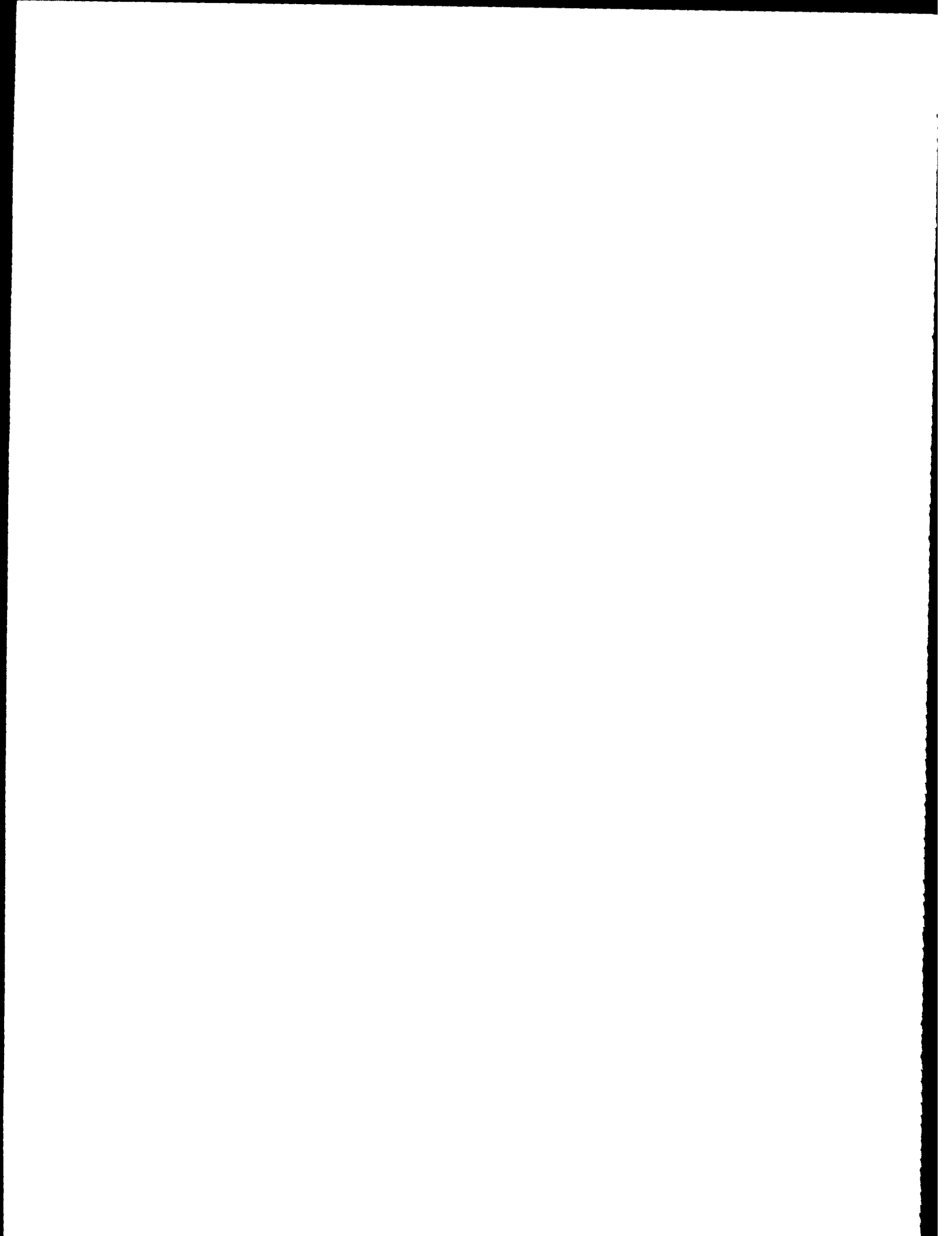
In the new standards, frame size and muscle thickness are treated as crucial factors influencing value. Three frame categories are being used; Large Frame steers would be expected to produce U.S. Choice carcasses at a finished weight of 1,200 pounds or more, Medium Frame steers would grade Choice at 1,000 to 1,200 pounds, and Small Frame under 1,000 pounds.

The terms No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 identify the degree of muscle thickness, with the first being the most thickly muscled.

Before being graded on frame size and muscle thickness, feeder cattle are judged on their ability to grow and fatten normally. Those without such ability are identified as Inferior.

These standards apply to cattle that have not reached 36 months of age.

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Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Lois Goering (612) 376-1536  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick (612) 373-1781

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## REPAIRS GIVE WINTER WEAR EXTRA LIFE

"Small rips and holes are quite common in insulated items that still have wear left in them," says Lois Goering, extension textiles specialist at the University of Minnesota. "Down-filled clothes and sleeping bags can really be a problem because you can lose the down fill so quickly."

Sewing isn't the only answer when it comes to mending these items. Several commercial products do a good job, but unfortunately, no matter what repair method you use the patch job is likely to be noticeable, Goering says.

Adhesive fabric tape is one product that withstands stress and is waterproof. The tape comes in several colors and is available at sporting goods stores and some shoe repair shops. Do not use the fabric tape on items that will be dry-cleaned.

"First cut a piece of tape at least one-half inch longer than the tear," Goering says. "Bring the torn edges together, smoothing out any puckers or folds. Take the backing off and lightly press the tape over the tear. When you're sure the fabric underneath is smooth, firmly rub the tape to ensure adhesion."

Iron-on patches are an option and are available in assorted colors and fabric types.

You'll want to cut the patch slightly larger than the area to be repaired, rounding off the corners. Make sure the torn area is clean before you use the buffing material that is sold with the patch. Gently buff the entire area that needs repair. With an iron preheated to synthetic temperature, warm the fabric around the rip or tear.

add one--repairs give winter wear extra life

Now position the patch, adhesive side down, and press with a dry iron for at least one minute. Larger patches require more pressing time. Run the iron around the edges to seal; allow the patch to cool for two minutes before handling.

Liquid adhesives--the type of product sold to repair vinyl seats--also work on torn insulated items, but can't be used on holes, Goering says. Look for this product in sporting goods stores, shoe repair shops and automotive departments.

"To use the adhesive, bring the edges together and overlap a bit," she says. "Apply a thin stream of adhesive to the edges of the tear. The fabric will become flexible once the adhesive dries."

Make sure the adhesive you buy is suitable for the type of fabric you're repairing by checking the package label, Goering says.

Sewing is the cheapest way to mend winter wear, but make sure the sewing method you use will provide a strong mend.

"Bring the torn edges together with the wrong sides touching," she says. "You'll have the raw edges out on the right side of the item. Sew a little dart on the right side of the fabric by machine. To keep the fabric from fraying, sear raw edges of nylon fabric by very carefully running them past the base of a candle flame."

You might want to sew a patch over your repair work; do this by hand, Goering recommends. Make sure not to sew through the insulation, or you could create cold spots in your garment or sleeping bag.

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(Note to Agents: This information is  
taken from the Extension Consumer  
Answering Service's files)

Immediate release

AUTUMN HOME BRIEFS. . .

Colorful fall fires: Soaking evergreen cones, wood chips or rolled paper in chemicals before burning them in the fireplace will produce beautifully colored flames for your family to enjoy.

Mix the chemicals at a ratio of about one pound to a gallon of water. Use an old paint pail or a disposable container because the chemicals can be corrosive. Soak the materials for a day or two for best results; use a weight to keep materials submerged. Hang to dry.

Green flames: copper sulfate

Violet flames: potassium chloride

Orange flames: calcium chloride

Purple flames: lithium chloride

Blue flames: copper chloride

\* \* \* \*

Seasonal buying: What are the best buys in the fall of the year?

In November, look for bargains in blankets, white goods, china and glassware, silverware, shoes, women's coats, toys, major appliances, bicycles and used cars.

In December, look for bargains in beachwear, blankets, children's clothing, women's and children's hats, men's and boys' suits, toys (last year's models), and used cars. Don't forget, Christmas cards are usually half-price after Dec. 25.

\* \* \* \*

Humidity in your home: Humidity in your home should be adjusted according to outdoor temperatures, according to extension agricultural engineers. In the autumn, maximum safe humidities for homes with insulation but no vapor barrier are 40 percent for temperatures 20 to 40 degrees F and 35 percent, for temperatures 10 to 20 degrees F.

\* \* \* \*

-over-

add one--autumn home briefs. . .

Cleaning down garments or bags: It's best to follow label instructions when cleaning down-filled clothing or sleeping bags, according to extension textiles specialists. If you're dry-cleaning your down-filled gear, make sure to choose a reputable dry cleaner who is experienced in working with down.

Some manufacturers recommend machine washing, but use only a gentle or delicate cycle. Don't use the agitator in front-loading commercial machines. To dry, use a tumble dryer set on low or no heat. A pair of clean tennis shoes in the dryer will help to break up the down and renew its fluffiness.

Before storing your bag or jacket, make sure it is thoroughly dry. Store sleeping bags flat and loose, not rolled up. Jackets and vests may be hung, if you've no flat place to store them.

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St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
Nov. 12, 1979

Source: Fred Hoefer 612/373-0725  
Writer: Greg Dorning 612/373-0725

CHINA CONFERENCES PLANNED  
AT WASECA, ST. PAUL CAMPUSES

A conference focusing on Chinese agriculture entitled "Changes in China: Implications for Americans," will be held Dec. 3 at the University of Minnesota, Technical College, Waseca.

The conference will bring together American farmers and agricultural specialists who have recently visited China, faculty members from Minnesota universities, and interested people from southern Minnesota.

The People's Republic of China is of current interest to American agriculturalists as a potential export market and as an emerging world power which has radically reorganized its agriculture to feed and care for its nearly one billion people.

As collective farming and communal ownership has replaced traditional village agriculture in China, a question for conference participants to discuss is whether the individual farmer's rights in any country should be limited by the needs of the larger community.

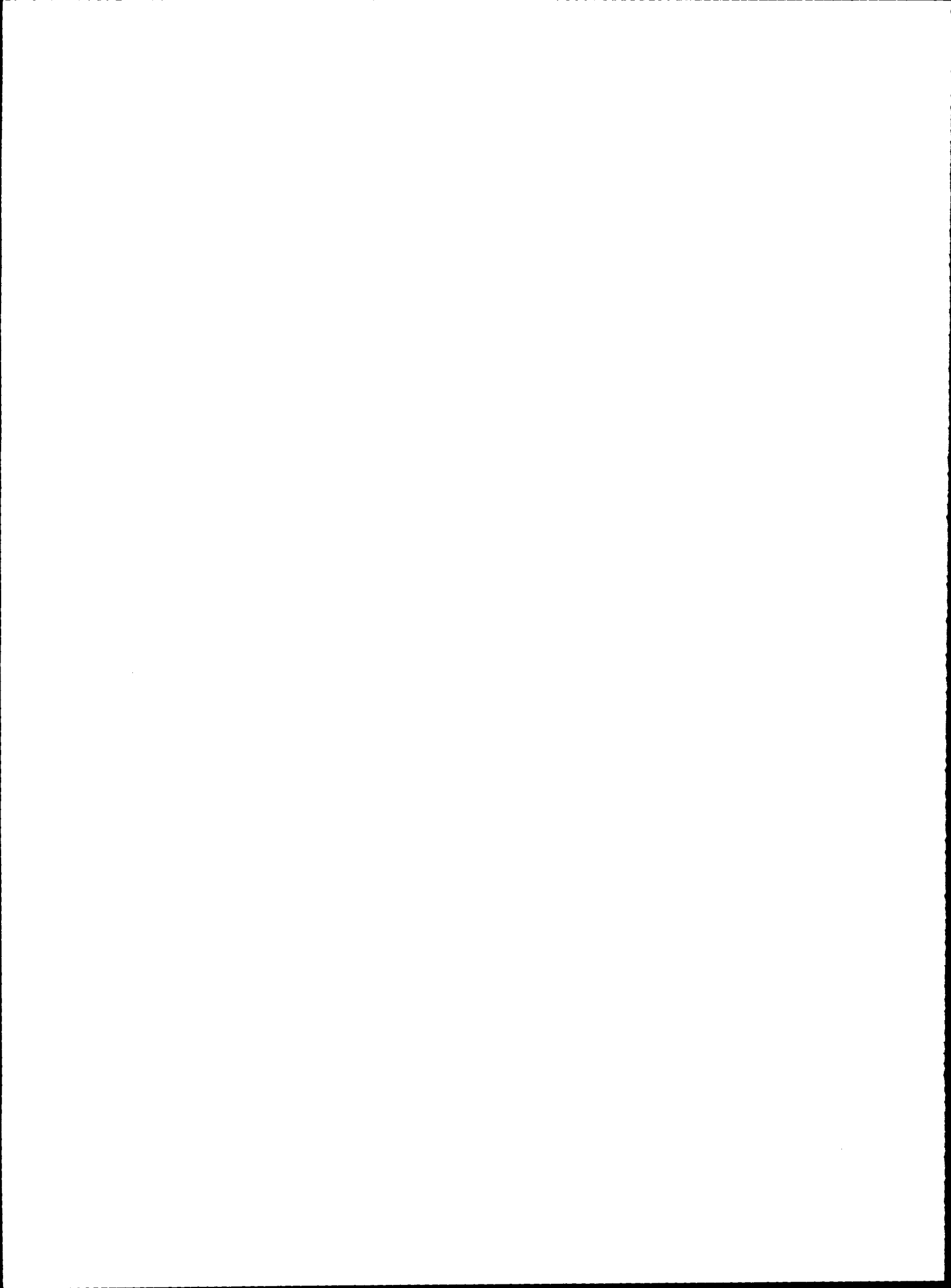
The program includes presentations on: Village Agriculture in Traditional China, Chinese Agriculture Today, and China's Collective Agriculture--Role of the Individual, Family and Team.

The University of Minnesota, the Agricultural Extension Service, the Midwest China Study Resource Center and the Minnesota China Council are sponsoring the workshop.

The conference fee is \$3.75 for adults and free for students. For further information and registration forms, contact:

Office of University Relations  
University of Minnesota, Technical College  
Administration Building  
Waseca, MN 56093  
(507) 835-1000 ext. 264

Another conference in this series on China entitled "Social and Economic Changes in China" will be held December 11 at the Earle Brown Center, University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus. For more information, contact the Office of Special Programs, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108, 612/373-0725.





Department of Information  
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Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
November 19, 1979

Source: Neal Martin  
(612) 373-1181

SILAGE CLINIC FOR  
MILK, BEEF PRODUCERS

A special silage clinic for dairymen and beef producers will be held at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_. University of Minnesota extension specialists will discuss silage feeding and preservation, economics of silage storage systems, forage management and profitability of quality silage.

Extension dairyman Jim Linn will discuss sodium bicarbonate and dry cow concerns as they relate to silage feeding, and the latest research on NPN in corn silage. Beef specialist Ray Arthaud will hold a separate clinic on winter silage feeding, self-feeding, feed additives and NPN.

Agronomist Neal Martin has information for both dairy and beef men on silage additives, preservatives and conditioners. He will look at crop selection for silage, including sunflowers and high moisture grain. Managing crops for quality is his main emphasis.

Ag economist Fred Benson can help with the crop production budget and look at harvest and feeding costs. Profits possible from quality alfalfa and grass will also be discussed. He is prepared to answer questions on silo investment and operating costs and to look at tower storage, oxygen-limiting or bunker.

Lunch will be served at the meeting location. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and adjournment is scheduled for 3 p.m.

1979-80 SILAGE PRESERVATION CLINICS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
December 4	Twin Valley
December 5	Thief River Falls
December 6	Roseau
December 7	Osakis
January 9	Farmington
January 10	Braham
March 4	Litchfield
March 5	Appleton
March 6	Slayton

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Tel. (612) 373-0710  
November 19, 1979

Source: Richard Meronuck 612/373-0725

### STORING HIGH MOISTURE SUNFLOWER SEEDS

With adequate aeration and careful monitoring, sunflowers at 18-20 percent moisture content can be held into February or the first week in March if they are frozen, University of Minnesota extension specialists say.

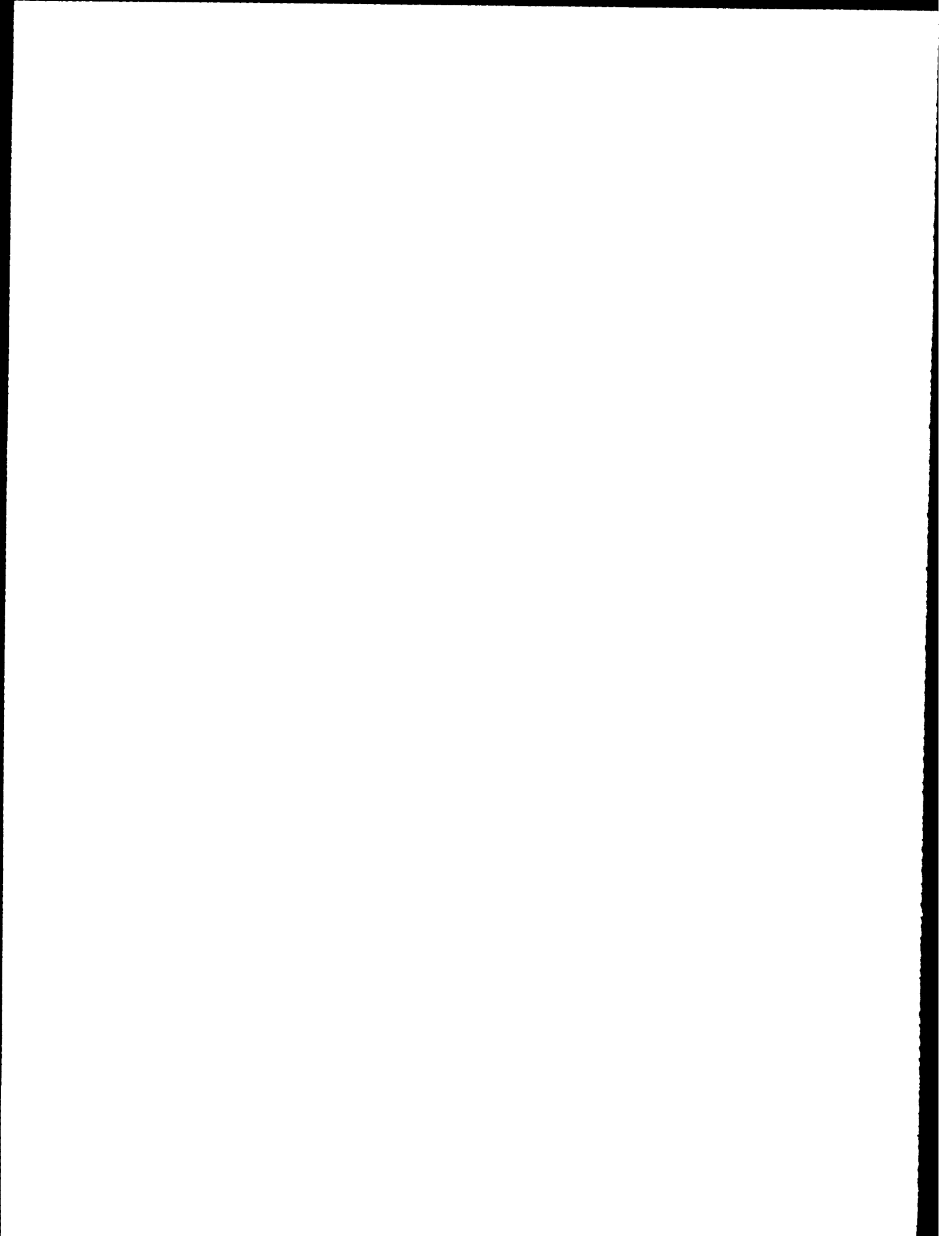
"The high moisture condition of the unharvested sunflower crop is causing a real drying and storage problem," report plant pathologist Richard Meronuck and agricultural engineer Harold Cloud. "It is best to harvest now, and not try and wait for better weather. The cold weather is beneficial for the storage of these high moisture seeds."

Aeration fans should be run periodically during the winter months to assure constant temperatures throughout the bin. It is not advisable to store unaerated frozen sunflowers for more than 2-3 weeks as hot spots could develop, especially on sides of bins that are warmed by an afternoon sun. If it is imperative to store longer than this without aeration, the bins or piles should be monitored carefully with temperature probes. Every effort should be made to provide aeration as it reduces the chances of hot spot formation by maintaining uniform temperatures throughout the bin.

If there is grain in a bin with moisture content of 25 percent or greater and initial temperatures are high enough, there is a possibility that sections of the bin will mold before it freezes. This moldy area will greatly inhibit air flow and will get hot and continue to spoil. If this happens it is important to remove this area as soon as possible as the condition will only worsen. Many field fungi can grow at 25 percent moisture at temperatures close to freezing. This can cause the temperature to rise and create a hot spot. Therefore, it is imperative to freeze this high moisture grain as soon as possible and keep it frozen until it can be dried.

It is advisable to dry the sunflowers as soon as possible as this obviously reduces the risks during storage. High temperature dryers do the job in considerably less time than natural bin dryers but the high temperature dryer must be monitored constantly because of the fire hazard. Sunflowers below 20 percent moisture successfully stored into the first week of March can be dried in the spring using a natural air drying bin with a full drying floor (using one cfm/bu air flow). Sunflowers over 20 percent should not be dried in this manner. Sunflowers should be dried with 9-10 percent moisture for continued safe storage and aerated.

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Tel. (612) 373-0710  
November 19, 1979

Source: Dale Hicks 612/373-1181  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

CORN BRIEFS. . .

Weather Reduced Kernel-Filling: Lower than normal temperatures and less solar radiation than normal during crucial periods probably caused fewer kernels to fill in corn this year.

"Many farmers are finding well-filled ears in the edge rows of their fields," says Dale Hicks, U of M extension agronomist. "In the shadier, inner rows, however, kernels approaching the tip may not have filled. On other ears, kernels along one side did not fill. Some ears have both stunted tips and sides."

Weather conditions were good during pollination when the number of kernels was determined. During the crucial grain-filling period, cool, cloudy days put stress on the plant that caused it to fill fewer kernels than it originally formed.

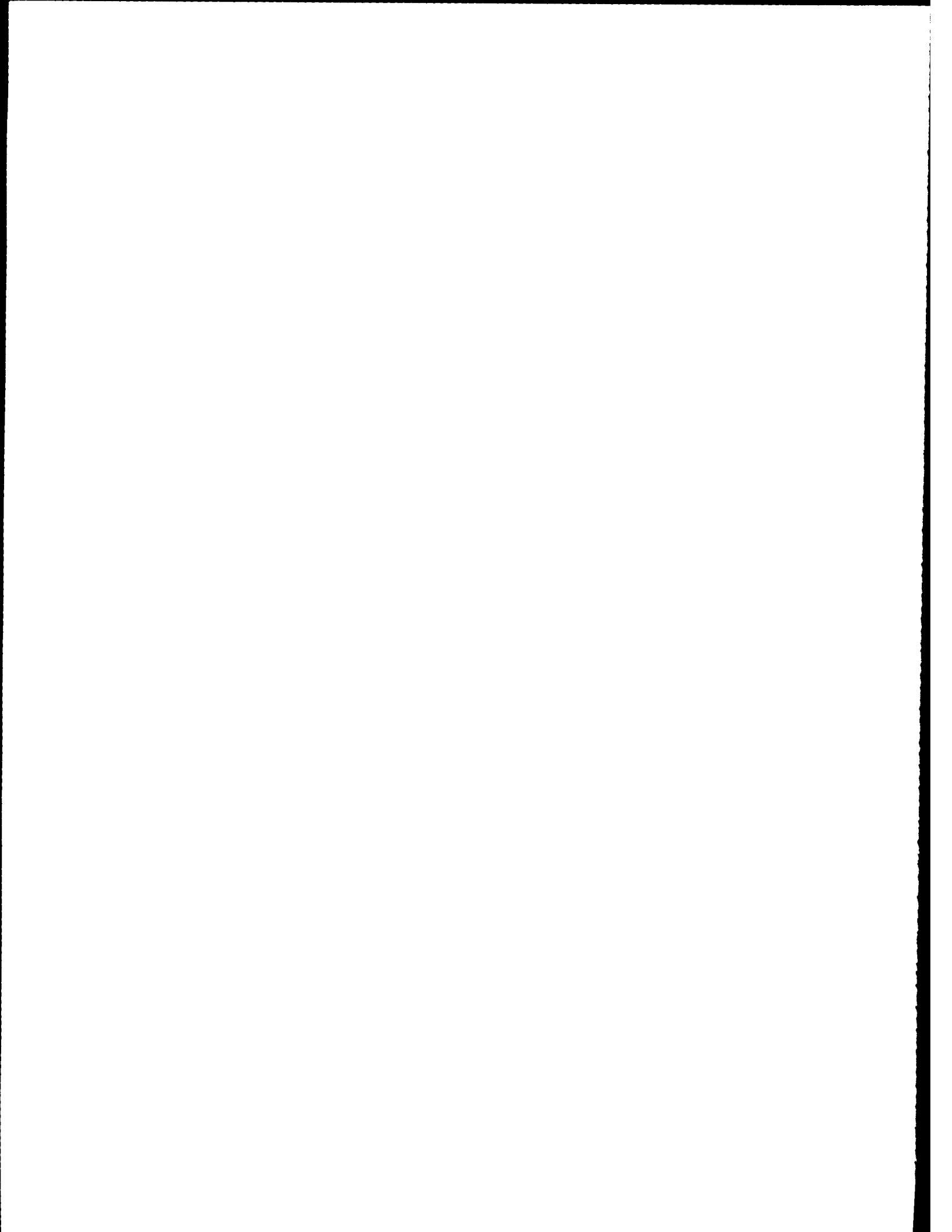
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Short-Season Hybrids NOT the Answer: Farmers who are now paying high fuel bills to dry this year's unusually wet corn may wish they had planted short-season hybrids. U of M extension agronomist Dale Hicks assures those who planted full-season varieties that reached physiological maturity that they probably made the right economic decision.

"At \$2.50 a bushel, corn yields only have to differ by less than three bushels per acre for it to be more economical to plant the full-season hybrids and spend the extra money on drying rather than planting short-season hybrids and having a lower yield," he says. "Most full-season hybrids are going to yield more than the three bushel difference."

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Source: Bob Appleman 612/373-1014  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

#### N-G VOLTAGE MAY CUT MILK OUTPUT

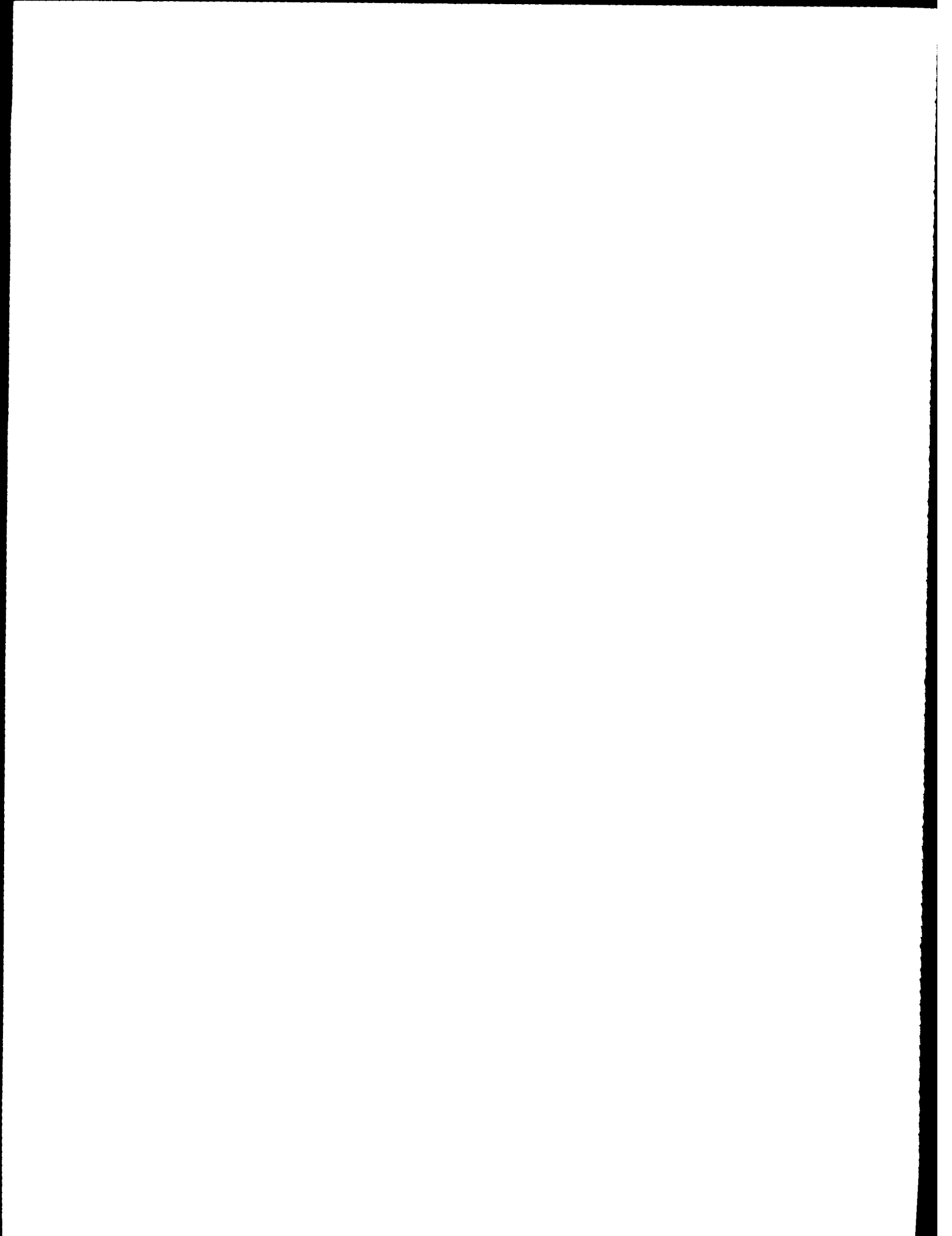
Neutral-to-ground voltage problems have reduced milk production for some dairy operations recently, reports Bob Appleman, University of Minnesota animal scientist.

Appleman and Harold Cloud, extension agricultural engineer, have assisted 30 dairymen in the past two years whose herds suffered from what is sometimes termed transient voltage or stray currents. "It exists on the grounded neutral conductors which are joined to everything that is grounded, such as feeders, waterers, and other equipment," the extension dairyman explains. "It finds its way to the cows and adversely affects milk letdown."

This neutral-to-ground, or N-G voltage can originate on or off the farm. "Undoubtedly this problem has existed to some degree for many years, but increased loads on rural distribution systems, higher producing dairy herds and increased equipment requirements have worsened the situation," Appleman says.

The milking machine operator will seldom feel these voltages because of his body resistance and the insulation of his boots. But cows have four bare feet that may be on wet concrete. They also have a lower body resistance. Together, these factors may allow N-G voltage to force enough current through their bodies to create a problem.

The most frequent symptom is uneven milkout, Appleman reports. Cows may be nervous and reluctant to enter stalls or the parlor. There is often an increase in mastitis cases, and more of them fail to respond to treatment. Problems seem to occur more frequently in milking parlors than stall barns.





add one--n-g voltage may cut milk output

A good sign of N-G voltage is the almost constant shifting of feet. When one foot is in contact with true ground and another part of her body touches grounded neutral, a small current can be carried through the cow's body.

Finally, N-G voltage may cause a sudden drop in production. It is only one of several conditions that may cause this symptom, but it must be considered when all the other common reasons have been eliminated.

"One volt of N-G voltage from AC current can create an immediate response and is cause for concern on any dairy farm," Appleman says. "Someone familiar with electrical systems, wiring and equipment should be consulted, and if possible, be there when measurements are being made."

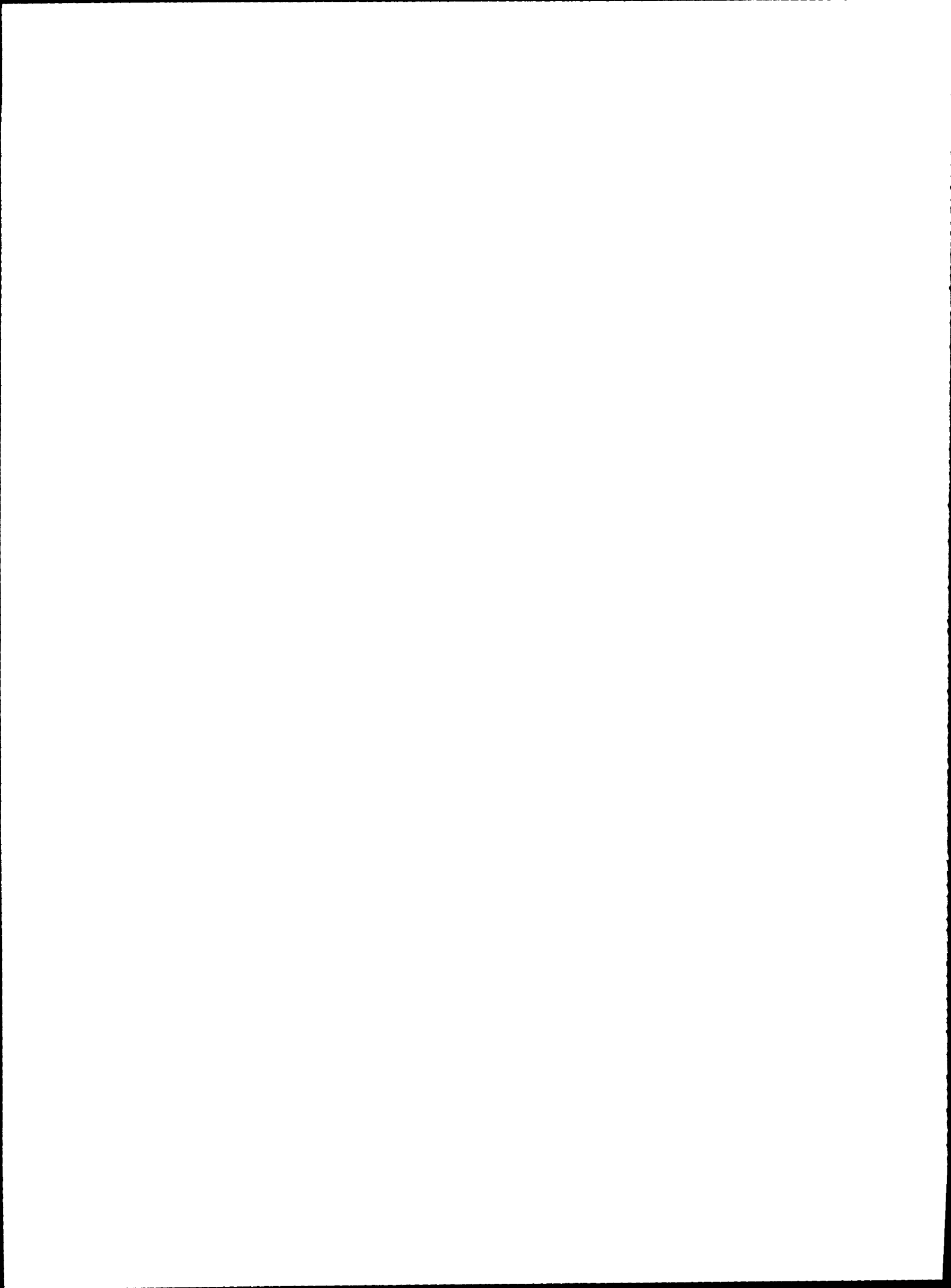
The system should be monitored at milking time when loads are high. A suitable voltmeter must be used. Suitable means a meter that will not show a DC current on the AC dial. One can test this by attaching the wire leads from the meter to a 1½ or 2 volt dry cell battery (DC current) and making certain the AC dial remains at zero. Many milking equipment and power companies are supplying suitable voltmeters to their employees as awareness of this problem grows.

A five-step procedure for finding the source of N-G voltage is outlined in Dairy Husbandry Fact Sheet No. 21, "Neutral-to-Ground Voltage Problems with Dairy Cows." The fact sheet also gives suggestions on how to deal with on and off-farm sources. It is available from county extension offices.

"Many dairymen have been successful in eliminating the problem," Appleman says. "Others have at least reduced its severity. Sometimes mastitis incidence drops dramatically and fewer cows are culled, followed by an impressive increase in production."

Appleman adds that causes are often difficult to locate. The condition may exist even though there are no electrical faults. In these cases, cooperation from the power company will be necessary to solve the problem.

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University of Minnesota  
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Source: Clif Halsey 612/373-1060  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

## SOIL LOSS LIMITS COULD BE SET

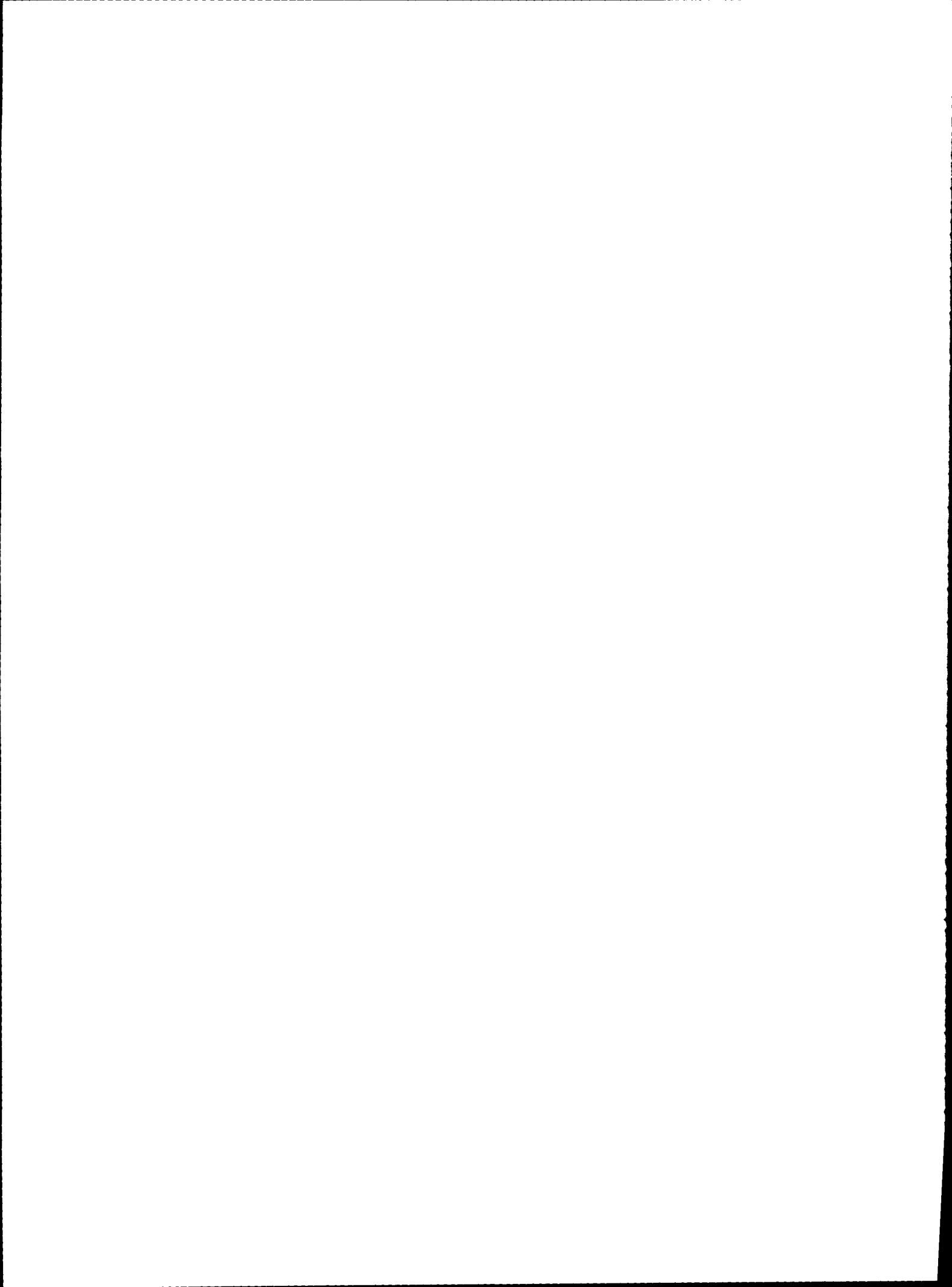
The Minnesota Legislature has considered passing a law that would allow soil and water conservation districts to set limits on soil erosion. But how could such a law, if passed, be put into effect? How would the limits be set and how would the erosion be measured?

Clif Halsey, University of Minnesota extension conservationist, gives some answers. "The bill introduced in the House last April would let each conservation district set soil loss limits for the various classes of land in the district. If a district chose to set such limits, farmers owning the land within it would be expected to keep their soil erosion below the maximum allowed."

How Would Erosion Be Measured? Scientists have developed the Universal Soil Loss Equation, which can be used quite accurately over a period of years to estimate erosion caused by rainfall runoff. The equation takes into account the type of soil, type and amount of rainfall, length and steepness of slope, cropping system and conservation practices being used. There is a separate equation for determining erosion caused by wind.

How Would Limits Be Set? Soil loss limits may be based on "tolerances." The tolerances would, in most cases, be set at the maximum level of soil erosion that can be permitted and still maintain the current crop yields indefinitely. Tolerances are based on the rate at which new soil is expected to form naturally.

The soil loss tolerance for deep, medium-textured, moderately permeable soils that have subsoil characteristics favorable for plant growth is about five tons per acre per year. Soils with less favorable subsoil, clay loam or tight subsoil may have a four ton tolerance. Shallow soils, such as those over gravel or bedrock, have a tolerance of perhaps one or two tons.



add one--soil loss limits could be set

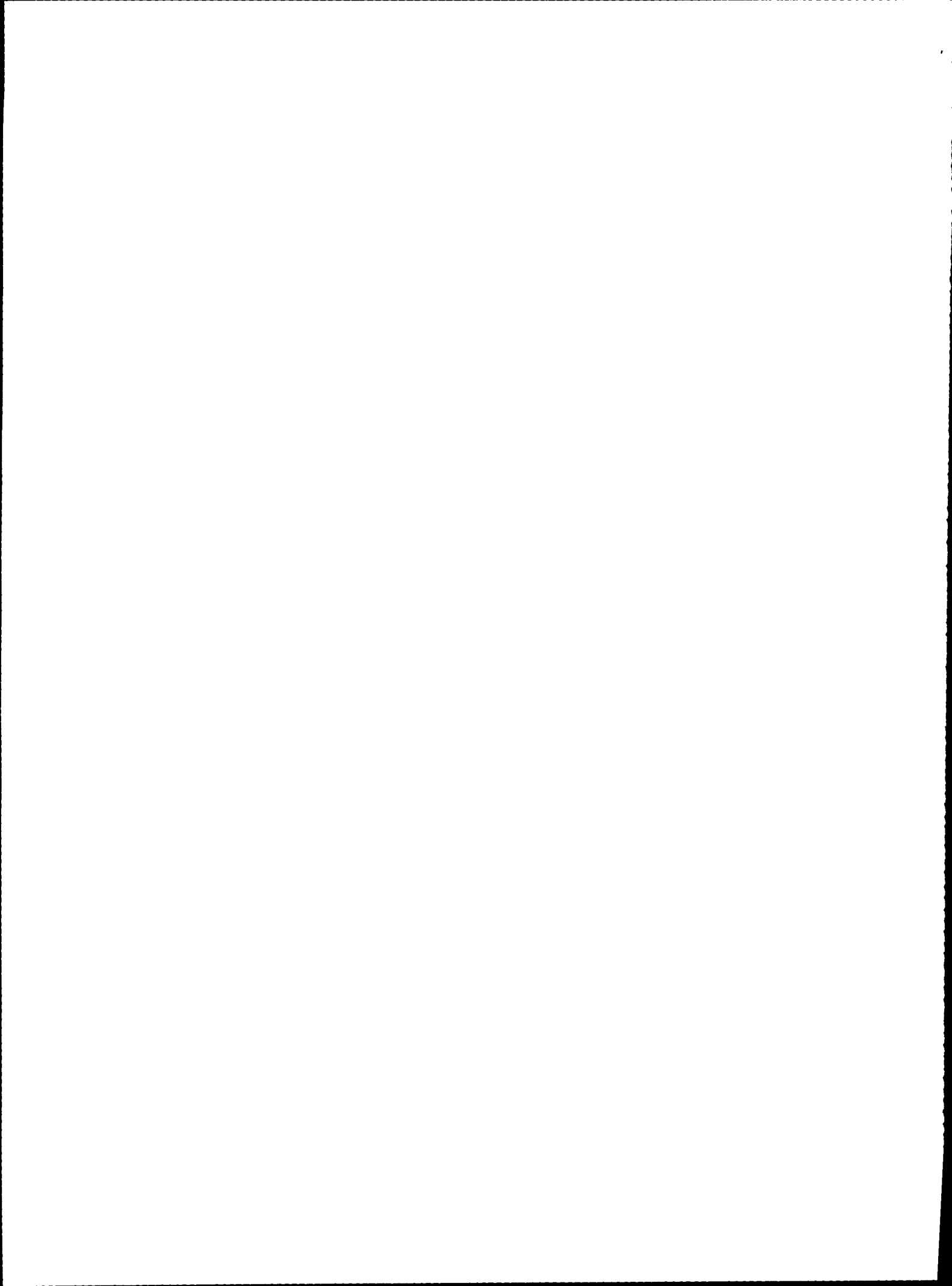
Proposals have been made to adjust the soil loss tolerances where pollution control is desired. Pollution sometimes is linked to sedimentation from soil erosion. Tolerances may be set lower than the level needed to protect soil productivity in order to lessen this pollution.

"Efforts to limit erosion by regulation can be expected to intensify," Halsey says. "How far they go depends on the farmers' use of the voluntary cost-sharing programs available to them."

For more information on voluntary programs and possible regulations, contact your soil and water conservation district headquarters. Information on how to control water and wind erosion through use of conservation tillage is available from your county extension office.

# # # #

CA, 1A



Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
November 19, 1979

Source: Lois Goering 612/376-1536  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick 612/373-1781

## GIVE EASY-WEAR, EASY-CARE CLOTHING TO THE ELDERLY THIS CHRISTMAS

If you're planning to give clothing to an elderly lady or gent on your Christmas list, make sure the garment you select is appropriate to their needs, says Lois Goering, an extension textiles specialist at the University of Minnesota.

When conducting your search for the perfect gift, consider these ideas:

--Color can enhance and compliment grayed hair; gray, rose, blue, lavender and other muted colors of middle values are usually quite pleasing.

--Comfort is important to anyone, but remember that elderly people are very sensitive to heat and cold. In the summer months, clothing should provide protection against sun and heat. Clothing which provides warmth without weight is recommended for winter months.

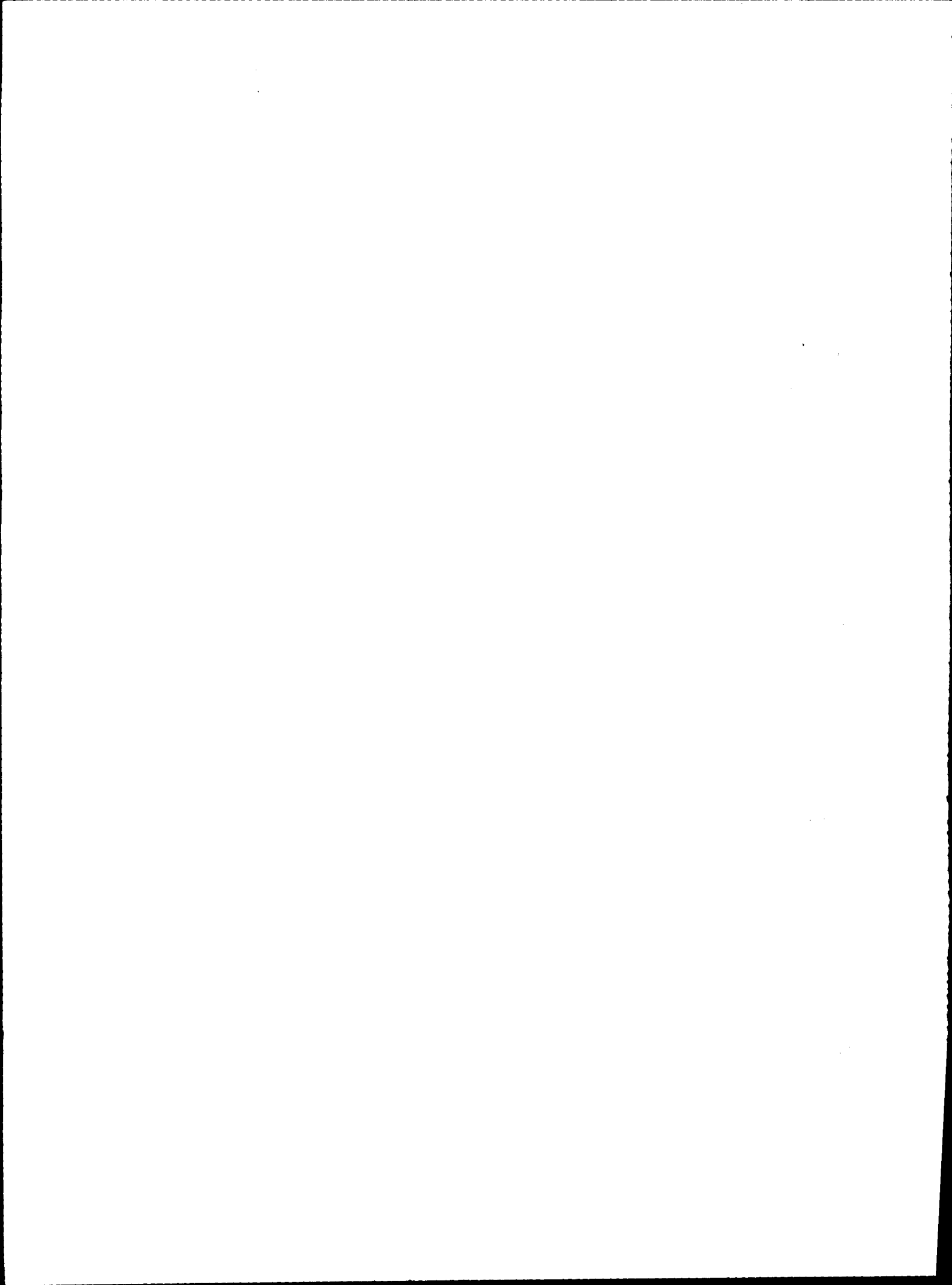
--Skin irritation may be more common in old age, even though certain fabrics, soaps or other substances caused no problems in previous years. Smooth, soft and absorbent fabrics are usually most comfortable. Soft lining may be desirable to shield the skin from direct contact with the fabric.

--Agility, manual dexterity and strength can diminish as one grows older. Design features which reduce effort in dressing include full-length front openings, large zipper tabs and buttons that are easily grasped and touch closures which open and close with little effort.

--Maintenance of the garment should be relatively easy; look for fabrics that require little care. Small prints and textured fabrics do not show spots, stains or soil readily. And by all means, look for fabrics which require little or no ironing.

"Carefully selected garments not only help the elderly look good and feel better," Goering says, "but they can also help the elderly maintain their independence."

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Department of Information  
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St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
November 19, 1979

Source: Lois Goering 612/376-1536  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick 612/373-1781

#### CHOOSE COMFORTABLE, ATTRACTIVE CLOTHING DESIGNS FOR THE ELDERLY

If there's an elderly woman on your Christmas shopping list, you needn't resort to the old stand-bys--hankies, slippers or stationery.

Just like their youthful counterparts, older women feel better when they look good. A stylish outfit may be just what your older friend or relative would love to receive this year.

The aging process causes physiological change in every figure. Major alterations can be avoided if the design you select can accommodate the structural characteristics of the woman's figure, says Lois Goering, extension textiles specialist at the University of Minnesota.

A prominent back shoulder region may require garments which provide extra length, width and shaping; darts, soft fullness and the diagonal seams of raglan sleeves will help accommodate a rounded back, forward shoulders or a dowager's hump, Goering says.

Fullness in the neck and-or a forward head position look best in necklines which don't fit snugly; if this is the case with your friend or relative, she'll certainly be more comfortable as well, Goering says. Look for cowl, v-neck, scoop or rounded necklines.

Raglan, dolman, kimono and epaulet sleeves are best if the tip of the shoulder isn't well defined, Goering says. If a regular set-in sleeve is chosen, the placement of the armseye seam in relation to the tip of the shoulder is important.

A dropped bustline looks best in clothing with soft fullness, tucks or darts which don't require the level or crown of the bust to be well defined. Dresses or blouses which feature shoulder tucks, smocking or gathers are better than bustline darts.

add one--choose comfortable, attractive clothing designs for the elderly

Weight gain or loss is common in elderly persons. For a woman with a thickened waist, look for designs that have no defined waistline seam or belt. Clothes which skim over the body would be a better choice.

For the thin figure, garments should be anchored gently at the neckline, armseye and-or the waistline. Fabrics and patterns can add the illusion of bulk to the very thin figure.

The hollow chest requires little or no shaping at all. A reduction in the front chest area may be needed. Goering suggests you shorten the front chest area from a yoke seam.

Clothing can cover major portions of the arms and legs which may have lost some of their shapeliness. "Extra sleeve width may be needed to accommodate a full upper arm, especially for the thickening associated with breast surgery," Goering says. "Necklines can have a softening effect on full or prominent facial features."

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St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
November 19, 1979

(Note to Agents: These items  
were taken from the files of the  
Extension Consumer Answering Service.)

APPLIANCE BRIEFS. . .

Dishwasher spots: Although there are commercial products to remove hard water spots from the interiors of dishwashers, you may have the answer right in your pantry, says Wanda Olson, extension household equipment specialist at the University of Minnesota.

"Add one cup of vinegar to your dishwasher and run it through one complete wash cycle," Olson says. "Then run the dishwasher through a second cycle using the amount of detergent you normally use. Don't have dishes in your machine for these cycles."

\* \* \* \*

Sticky waffle iron: Baking soda and water will remedy a sticky waffle iron, says \_\_\_\_\_ County Agent \_\_\_\_\_.

Use a brush to apply a paste of the two ingredients to the waffle iron grids. Leave it on for a short time, then wipe or brush it off.

Now cover the grids with an unsalted fat, such as oil or lard, and heat the unit until it starts to smoke. Bake one waffle to absorb excess fat and discard.

\* \* \* \*

Lint in your wash: If clothes keep coming out of your clothes washer covered with lint, you may be overloading the machine or sorting clothes improperly, says \_\_\_\_\_ County Agent \_\_\_\_\_.

Maybe you're not using fabric softeners as directed. Don't add them to your wash water unless specifically directed to do so by the manufacturer. A chemical reaction between fabric softeners and detergents creates a white deposit that can be mistaken for lint.

add one--appliance briefs. . .

Piling is also often mistaken for lint. Non or low-phosphate detergents react with hard water to form a film that also looks like lint.

\* \* \* \*

Slow cooker safety: Factors affecting the safety of food prepared in a slow cooker are the quantity of food you're cooking and the wattage of the appliance, says Wanda Olson, household equipment specialist at the University of Minnesota.

"Conditions that allow food to be at temperatures between 40 and 140 degrees F for more than three or four hours should be avoided," Olson says. "Wattages of 75 or 150 would also be a concern. Use higher wattage for the first hour or two when the pot is more than half full and when foods are partially frozen, especially when you're cooking with poultry, eggs and fish."

\* \* \* \*

Freezers in the garage: Should you install a freezer in an attached garage? Probably not, says \_\_\_\_\_ County Agent \_\_\_\_\_.

Here's some factors to consider:

--This location may violate the manufacturer's warranty; check the book that comes with your appliance.

--Uneven temperatures within the freezer may occur in very late fall and early spring.

--Extremely hot weather forces the motor to run more often and may shorten the life expectancy of your appliance.

--Very cold weather will stiffen the lubricants in the freezer's motor.

# # # #

CA

Department of Information  
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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
November 19, 1979

4-H News

Source: Tom Zurcher  
612/373-1109  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

### LEARNING FROM THE LAMB AROUND A KITCHEN TABLE

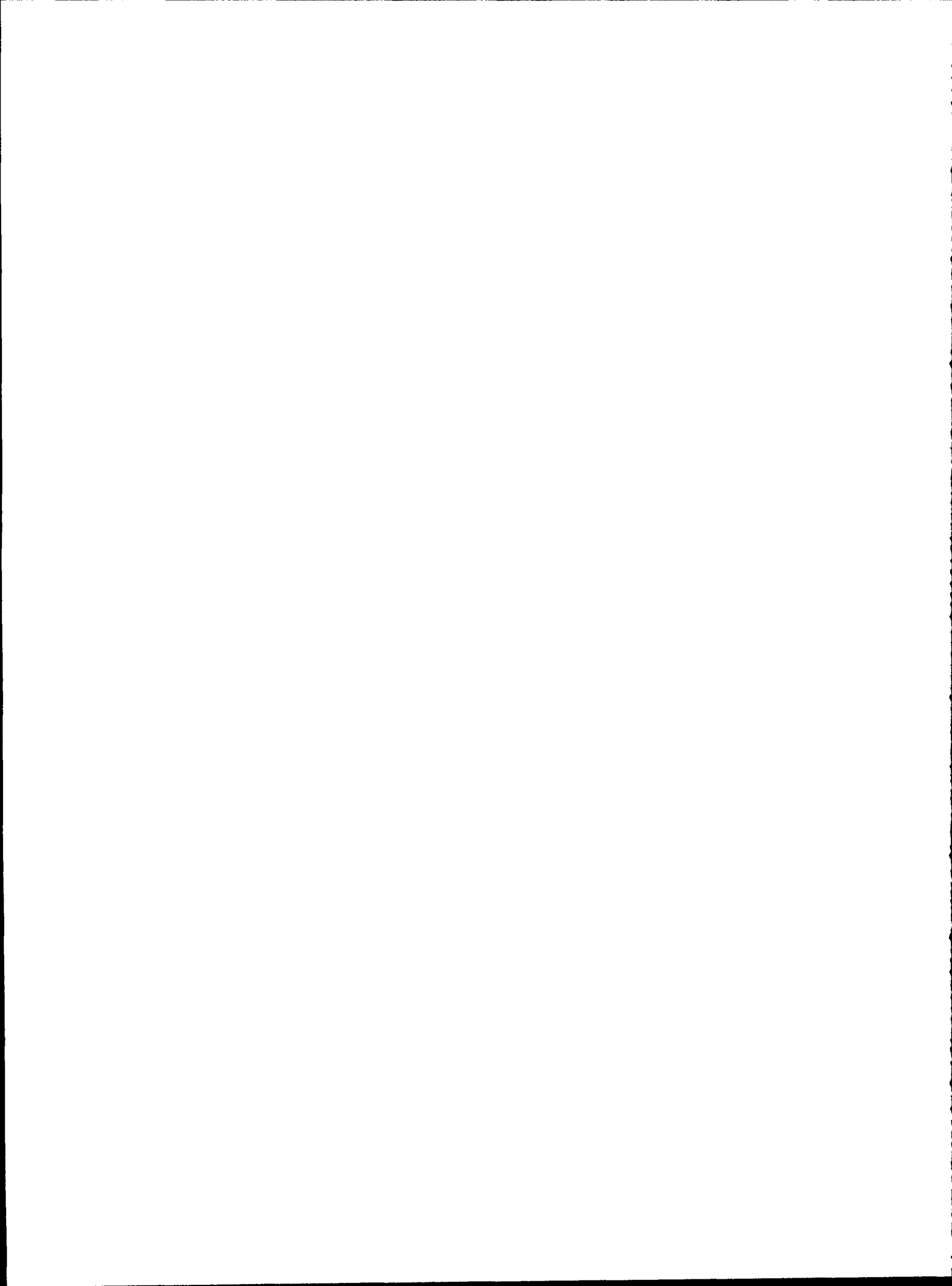
Tom Zurcher is a 4-H livestock specialist who wants young people to learn by doing, whether or not a live animal is present.

Zurcher recently joined the Minnesota 4-H staff. You sometimes see him carrying a stuffed lamb in his arms. The fake-fleeced creature can receive much of the treatment a real lamb gets. It can be delivered (with coffee can serving as mother), it can be inoculated, its tail can be docked, it can be castrated and its temperature can be taken. Through all of this, it can teach!

"We help the 4-H'ers learn by giving them a situation," Zurcher says. "We put the lamb under a coat and tell them it is about to be born. Its mother needs help, and they are the only ones around to help. Then they must deliver it through the coffee can."

The styrofoam-stuffed animal is a visual aid--which means first of all it is a gimmick for getting the youths' attention. "At a project meeting the leader just sets the lamb on the kitchen table," Zurcher explains. "As the members arrive, they are drawn to it. They want to touch it, take off its velcro-attached tail, and look in its mouth. They are already learning, and most importantly they are asking questions."

The beginners may start off with an anatomy lesson. They are given pins with names of body parts written on them and allowed to figure out for themselves what is what. The leader guides them with questions and praise. "Yes, that's close to the loin, just move it up about an inch or so. What part of the lamb do you think the best chops come from?"



add one--learning from the lamb around a kitchen table

From anatomy, students may graduate to treating for internal parasites and then to saving a cold, weak lamb using a lamb revival tube. There are about 20 activities using the livestock substitute. The member is rewarded for successfully completing one, and then he or she feels motivated to move on to something more advanced.

The aim of the lamb project goes beyond successful sheep production. Putting young people in a situation (such as the unexpected lamb birth) helps them deal with unexpected situations in real life. Praising and rewarding them for venturing to learn in a lively group sets the stage for life-long learning.

"We must always practice what we preach in 4-H--learning by doing--even in our project meetings," Zurcher says. "It's been difficult with livestock since most of the 'doing' is out in the barn. But now, you can take your lamb into the kitchen. The 'experiential learning' can happen with young people seated around a kitchen table."

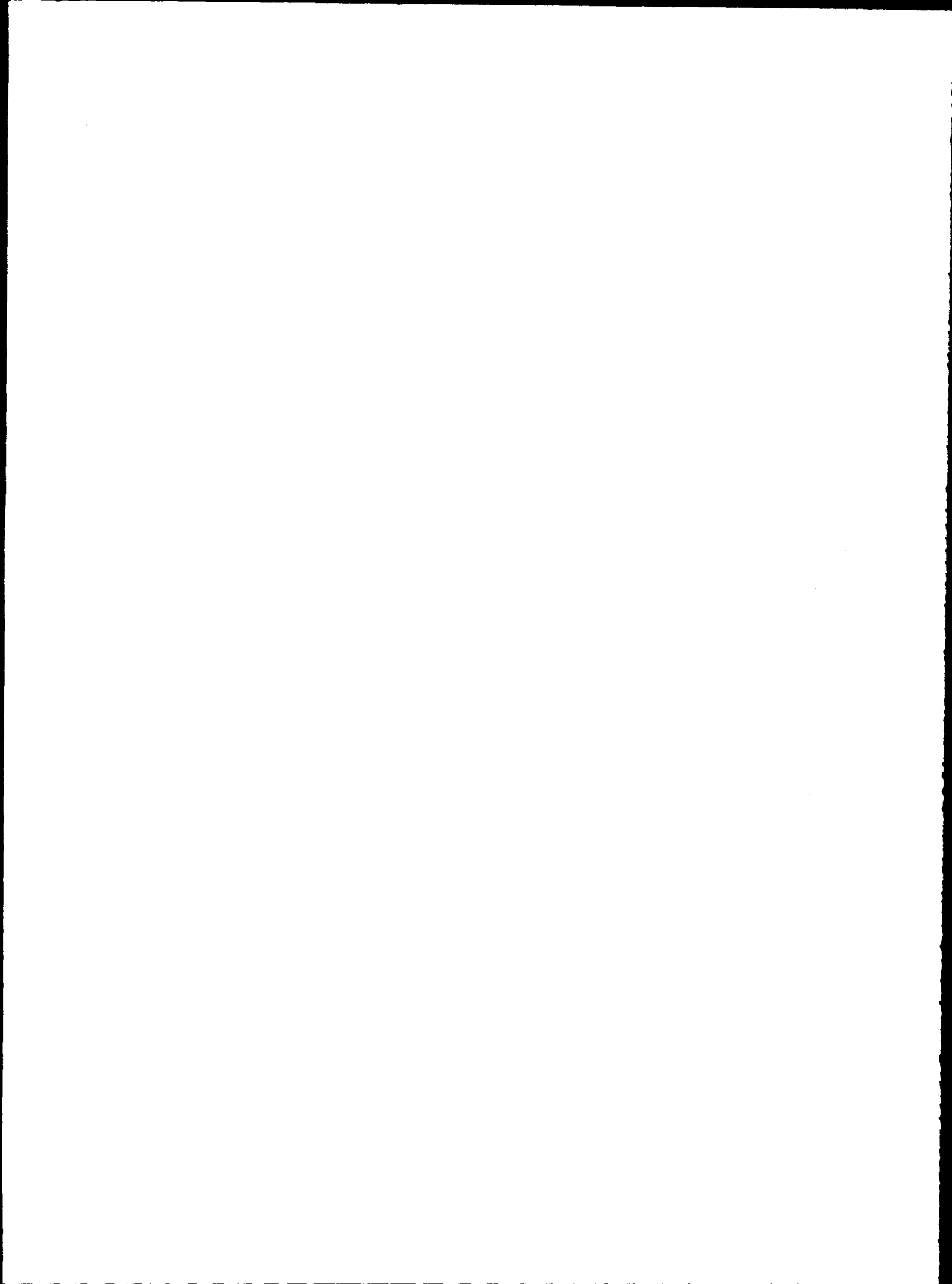
While an agent in Clackamas County, Oregon, Zurcher designed four lambs--a Suffolk, a Hampshire, a Columbia and an all black one. They are about the size of the real new-born thing, with pink yarn umbilical cord still attached (by a snap). A 4-H member in an advanced sewing project can make the creature from Tom's pattern in about eight hours with \$10 in materials. Patterns are available from the county extension office.

Lambs are just the beginning for Tom--and for all of (Minnesota's \_\_\_\_\_ County's) livestock projects. He hopes each county will soon have its own model foal, calf, pig and rabbit. But more importantly, he wants "learning by doing" throughout 4-H, especially at livestock project meetings.

4-H Youth Development is a program of the \_\_\_\_\_ County office of the University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service.

# # # #

Note to agents: The lamb pattern is available from Dr. Tom Zurcher at the state 4-H office.





MSC  
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In honor of

**CHRIS MOEN**

on the occasion of her twenty-fifth anniversary at the University  
the Institute of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics

invites you to a reception

on

Tuesday, August 7, 1979

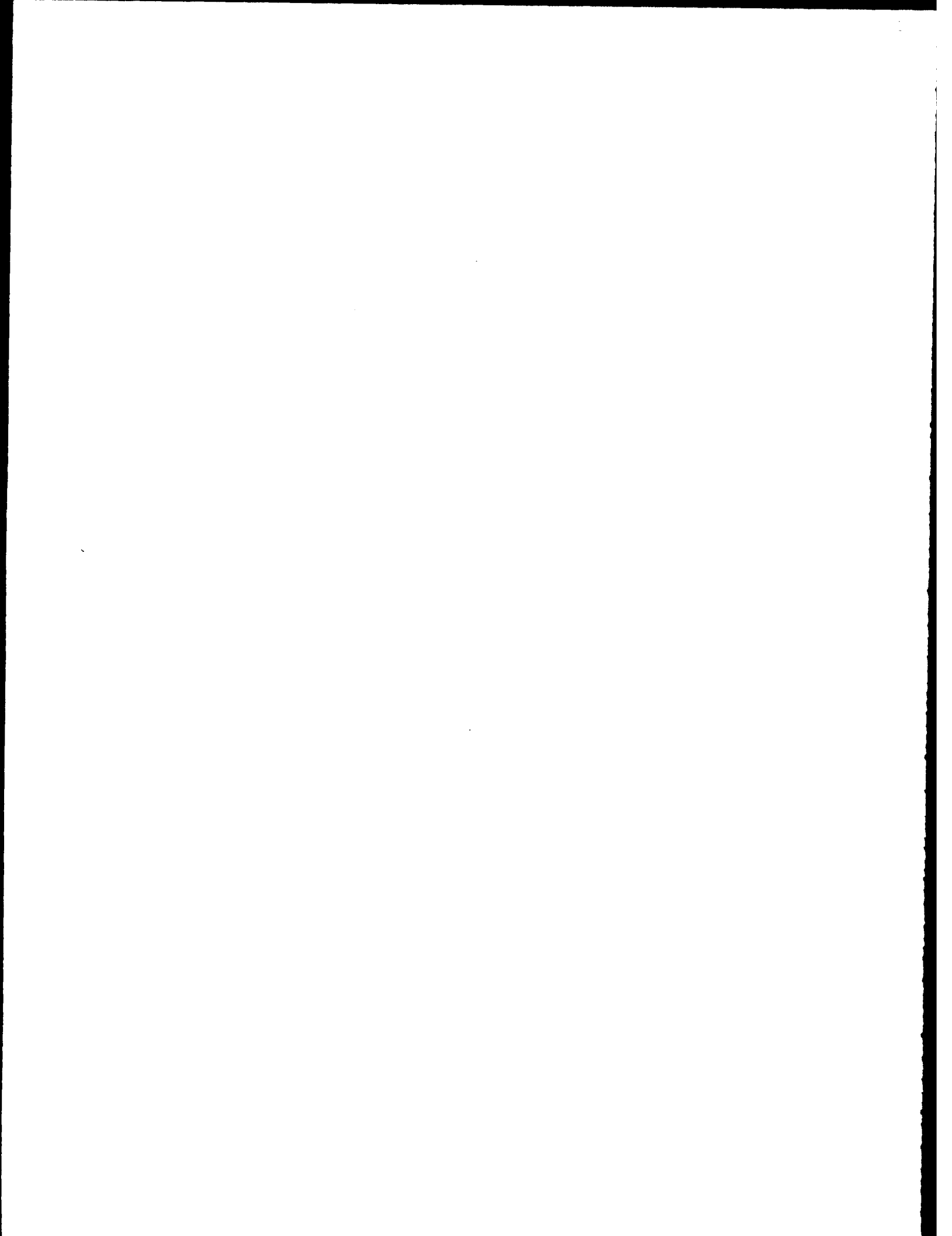
2 - 4 p.m.

in

201 Coffey Hall, St. Paul Campus

Refreshments will be served.

Please share this announcement with civil service staff and faculty.



Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
November 26, 1979

Source: Bob Aherin 612/373-0764  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

#### FARM MACHINERY NOISE HAZARDOUS TO HEARING

Sound. A child's laughter gives a feeling of joy and well-being to the listener. A clanking, sputtering, roaring farm machine should do just the opposite--for your ears' sake.

"The ability to hear is a valuable gift," says Bob Aherin, University of Minnesota safety specialist. "Exposing our ears to the loud or high-pitched noises that over time destroy sensitive nerve tissue robs a person of this gift."

Farmers are more likely to suffer hearing loss caused by noise than most other workers. Loud and high-pitched sounds from farm machinery over-stimulate the inner ear nerve. Exposure to such noise for several hours weakens the nerve, and over longer periods destroys it. The damage is permanent.

"The first symptom of noise-induced hearing loss is difficulty understanding what people say," the ag engineer reports. "You can hear people talking, but their speech is not as clear as it should be."

Years of research have revealed safety limits for exposure to different loudness levels over time. Feed grinders, for instance, make enough noise so that two hours is the limit of safety for unprotected ears. Some tractors could endanger ear nerve tissue after four hours of uninterrupted noise. The safety limit for using a chain saw without ear protection is only 15 minutes.

"The best way to deal with noise is to reduce it," Aherin says. "Replacing worn, loose or unbalanced machine parts cuts down on vibration. Lubrication reduces friction noises. High-quality mufflers quiet engine-powered equipment."

A tractor driver can be safely isolated from damaging noise by an acoustically designed cab available from the tractor manufacturer.

add one--farm machinery noise hazardous

If it is not practical to arrange schedules to reduce amount of time around noise, or to make machines less noisy, ear protection should be worn. Ear muffs are most effective. They cover the entire ear and are easily put on and taken off. Ear plugs are more comfortable in hot weather. Directions must be followed closely when plugs are inserted so that they block the ear canal properly.

Ear muffs and plugs are inexpensive and block only those sounds most dangerous to hearing. You will still be able to hear your farm machinery running and to communicate with others. Cotton cannot block high-pitched noise or dangerously loud sounds.

"People who are continually exposed to high noise levels should have a hearing test periodically," Aherin says. "This winter may be a good time for such a test. If your hearing is not what it should be, start taking those steps to stop further damage to your precious inner ear nerves."

# # # #

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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 26, 1979

Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

#### HARVEST BOWL BRIEFS...(Hjort)

Hjort Explains Farm Structure Project: The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's chief economic advisor, Howard Hjort, gave an overview of Bob Bergland's farm structure dialogue at the University of Minnesota's Harvest Bowl Nov. 16.

"The Secretary believes that we must set aside time to consider the future... anticipate emerging problems before they become an immediate crisis," Hjort said.

Issues involving the agricultural structure will be discussed at 10 public meetings, including those in So. Sioux City, Neb., Dec. 4; Sedalia, Mo., Dec. 5 and Lafayette, Ind., Dec. 18.

"The findings that emerge over the next year and a half...will be used in re-examining our farm, tax, credit, trade, environmental, consumer, energy and regulatory programs," Hjort said. "Sec. Bergland's long-range goal is to have findings and recommendations in place before Congress takes up the 1981 farm bill."

\* \* \* \*

Troubling Signs in Agriculture: Areas of concern in agriculture's future were outlined by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's chief economic advisor at the University of Minnesota Harvest Bowl Nov. 16. Howard Hjort urged greater examination of these issues as part of the agriculture department's farm structure dialogue:

- The sharply rising costs of producing food and fiber
- Land prices which have risen well beyond levels justified by the productive capacity of the land
- Continually declining number of farms, and increasing size of individual farms

add one--harvest bowl briefs

- Rapid depletion of natural resources, including water and prime farmland
- Dependence on fossil energy
- Soil erosion
- New marketing arrangements that result in loss of pricing information
- Increasing capital requirements as a barrier to would-be farmers, how land is transferred
- Impact of public policies such as farm commodity and credit programs and environmental regulations on structure
- Quality of rural life
- Slowdown in productivity gains and decline in financial support for research and education.

# # # #

CA

Department of Information  
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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
November 26, 1979

Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

## HARVEST BOWL BRIEFS... (Drache)

Family Farm Doing Well...Small Farm Obsolete: Historian Hiram Drache urged caution regarding possible legislation resulting from the U.S. Department of Agriculture farm structure dialogue.

"The nation desperately needs the exports commercial family farmers can provide," Drache said at the University of Minnesota Harvest Bowl Nov. 16. "But what will be their incentive to justify the risk if we restrict them through egalitarian legislation?"

Current opportunities in intensely capitalized agriculture have made it attractive to top-notch management husband and wife teams, Drache added. The greater difficulty that young people have getting into farming is improving the industry by upgrading the overall management level.

"What is the goal of agriculture?" he asked. "To perpetuate an obsolete institution--the little farm--or is it the goal to feed as much of mankind as cheaply as possible?"

Drache teaches at Concordia College in Moorhead, farms in the Red River Valley and has written four books about changes in agriculture.

\* \* \* \*

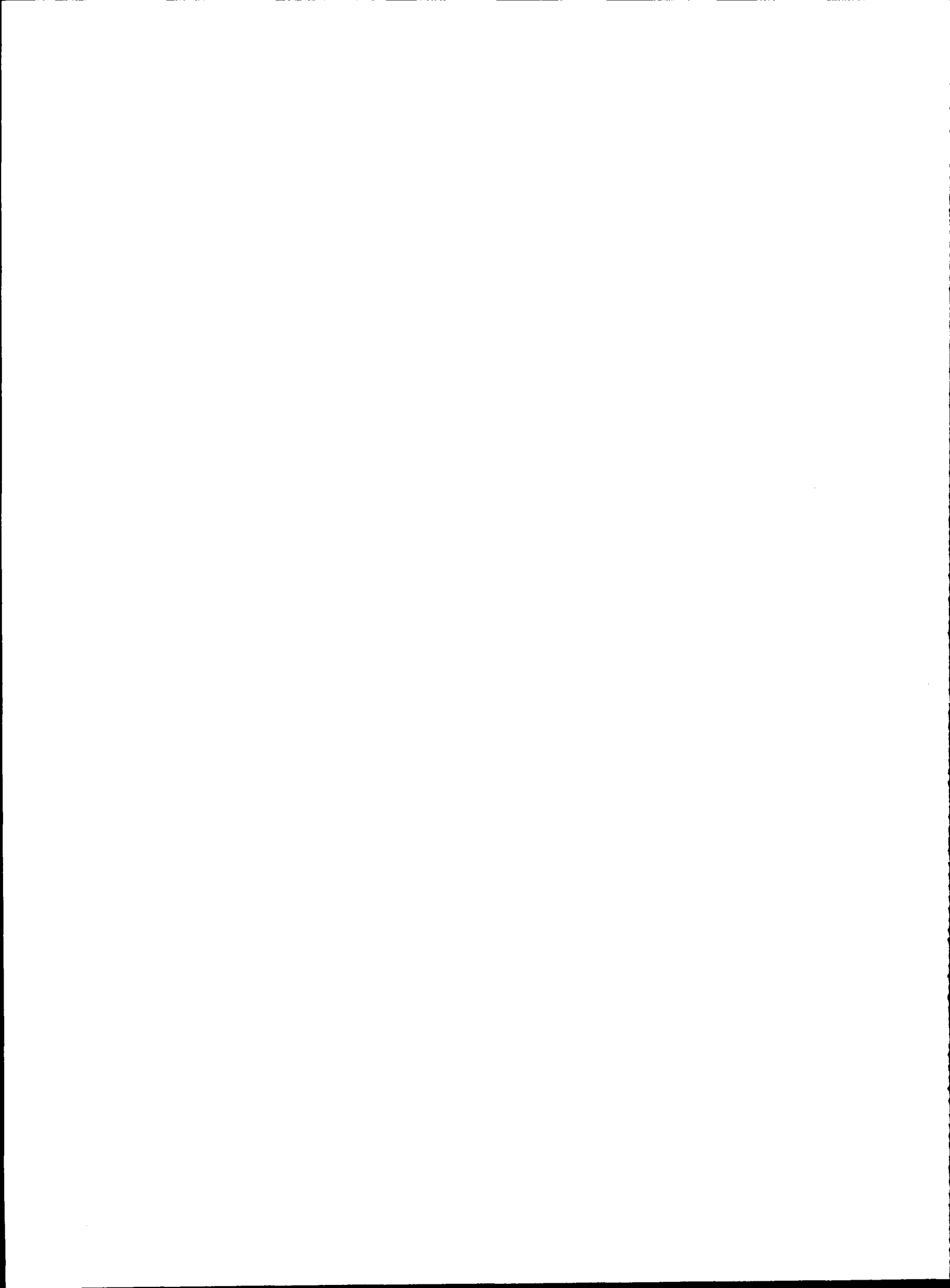
Keys to Farming Success: There's a future in farming for highly motivated husband-wife teams who can stand the tension of carrying a heavy debt load, Hiram Drache said at Harvest Bowl Nov. 16. Drache farms in the Red River Valley and has written four books about changes in agriculture.

"There's no shortage of money for good farmers," he said. "But if you're not comfortable carrying a debt of \$300,000 or \$400,000, maybe you ought to get out of farming."

Drache said farmers have told him the keys to success are:

1. A good mate--you can't stop a gung-ho team
2. Adversity--the test of strong people
3. Changing banks--you must be compatible with your banker
4. Goal setting--and working toward those goals

# # # #





Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
November 26, 1979

Source: Fred Benson  
612/373-1145  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

#### FARM PROGRAM BRIEFS...

Strong Grain Demand: The strong world-wide demand for U.S. grains means there will be no set-aside program for feed grains or wheat in 1980. Prices to farmers for corn will likely be 15-45 cents higher for the 1979-80 marketing year than they were for 1978/79.

Because there will be no set-aside, target prices could be lower in 1980 than they were this year. The formula used to determine target prices included a provision for the set-aside. Legislation has been introduced, however, to prevent this.

Using the current formula, 1980 target prices may be \$3.07 per bushel for wheat, \$2.08 for corn, \$2.35 for barley and \$2.46 for sorghum. The actual 1980 target prices will be announced March 15 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

\* \* \* \*

1980 Farm Program Eligibility: All producers will be eligible for the federal target price protection, loan and reserve programs in 1980. Those taking part will be expected to plant no more acres of wheat, corn, barley or sorghum than were considered planted to these crops in 1979. They are also subject to their normal crop acreage limits. Farmers who exceed last year's acreage of a specific crop, but are still within their "normal crop acres" will be subject to an allocation factor that can reduce target price payments by up to 20 percent.

Producers who plant wheat or feed grains on marginal land will not be allowed to use those acres as part of their normal crop acreage in future set-aside programs.

There will be no disaster payment program in 1980, unless legislation is passed to provide one. The 1977 farm bill provided for a program only through 1979.

\* \* \* \*

-over-

add one--farm program briefs

Loan Program: The main advantage in signing up to take part in the 1980 farm program will be because of the loan program, says Fred Benson, University of Minnesota ag economist.

"Farmers can pay off high interest capital operating loans with lower interest money through the loan program," Benson says. Loan rates will remain the same as 1979 rates for feed grains. The rate for wheat will be increased 15 cents.

\* \* \* \*

More Acres Planted--Higher Cost: The national program acreages (NPAs) computed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture is the number of planted acres of each crop needed to meet projected domestic and export requirements as well as provide for a desirable carryover. For 1980, the NPAs are 70 million acres for wheat, 82 million for corn and 7.9 million for barley.

These figures are an increase over 1979 because of stronger demand for U.S. crops. High demand and lack of a set-aside will encourage farmers to plant more acres. The resulting increase in demand for seed, fertilizer, pesticides and operating capital could raise the prices of these inputs and limit their availability.

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
November 26, 1979

(Note to Agents: this information is taken from FTC news summary, a publication of the Federal Trade Commission.)

COMPANIES SENDING UNORDERED  
MERCHANDISE INVESTIGATED

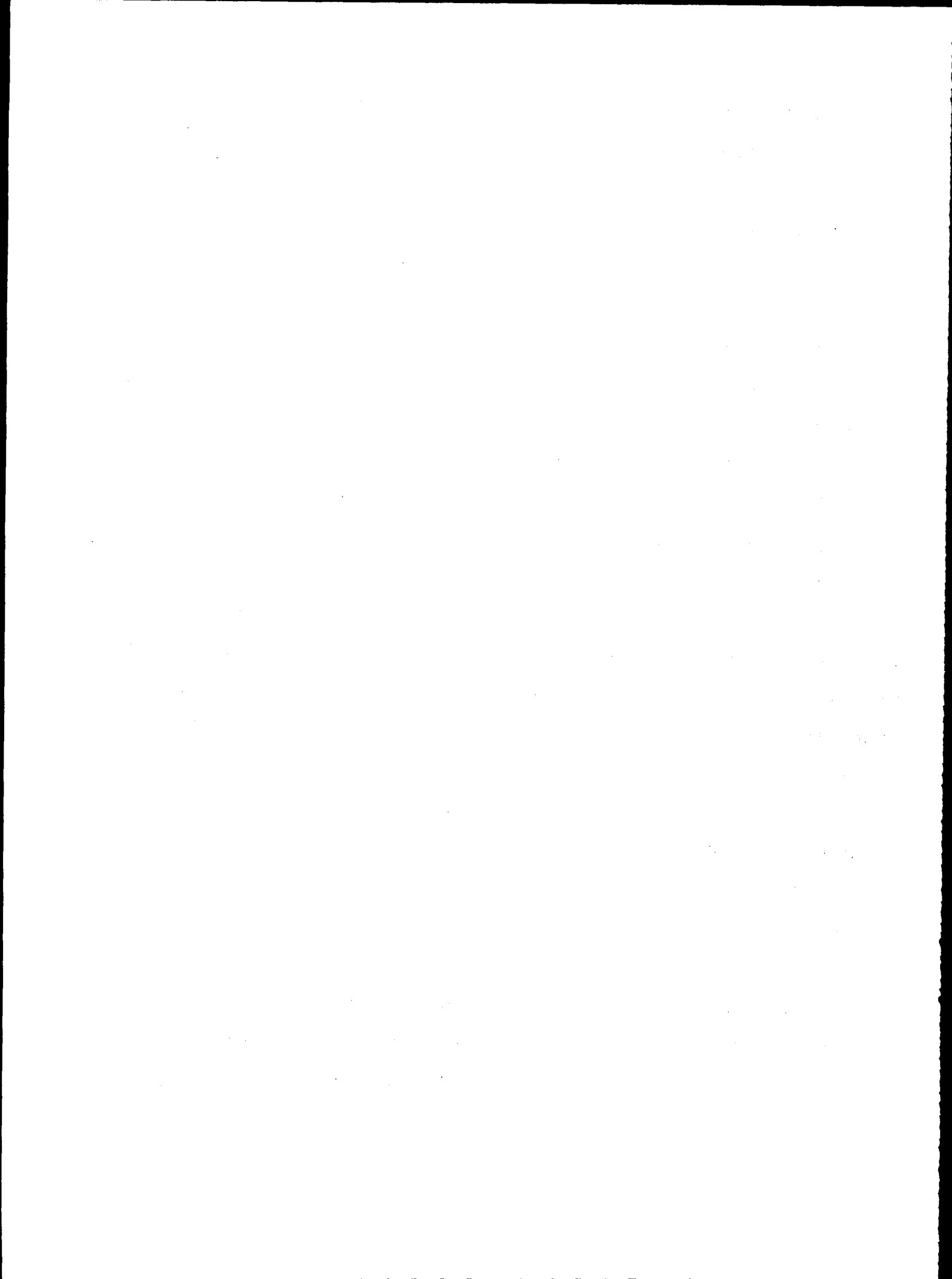
The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced Nov. 2 that it will investigate companies that may be illegally sending consumers unordered merchandise and attempting to collect for it.

Companies engaging in this practice could be liable for civil penalties of up to \$10,000 for each law violation and subject to other legal actions. Consumers do not have to return or pay for merchandise they receive in the U.S. mail if they did not order it.

Under the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, only two kinds of merchandise can legally be sent through U.S. mail without a consumer's prior agreement. These are free samples, clearly marked as such, and merchandise that is mailed by a charitable organization seeking contributions. Under the act, all unordered merchandise must be clearly marked as a gift, including any sent by charitable organizations. Also, the act makes it illegal for the sender to mail a bill to consumers for merchandise they didn't order.

According to FTC staff, many consumer complaints they have received concern:

- Merchandise sent "on approval" without a consumer's permission
- The sending of products different from what a consumer ordered
- The sending of greater quantities than what was ordered
- Failure to stop sending merchandise when a consumer has cancelled a plan--  
such as those used by book or record clubs--under which merchandise is sent  
regularly.



Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
December 3, 1979

Source: Lee Hardman 612/373-1181  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney 612/373-0714

M.S.  
J.F.P.

NEW CROP VARIETIES  
ADVISED FOR 1980

Three new crop varieties--a winter wheat, a spring wheat and a soybean--joined the list of recommended field crop varieties for 1980 released by the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station.

Dropped from the list were one oat and one barley variety, reports Lee Hardman, extension agronomist.

Len, a midseason semidwarf, was recommended as a hard red spring wheat. It has good lodging resistance and is stem and leaf rust resistant. The winter wheat Roughrider made the list due to its high yield, exceptional winter hardiness and stem rust resistance. It is susceptible to leaf rust.

The new recommended soybean Vickery is similar to Corsoy in all respects except that it is resistant to seven races of Phytophthora root rot, including two found in Minnesota. Vickery seed will be available to commercial soybean producers for the first time this spring.

Lodi failed to make the oat list. It is the lowest yielding variety under test, is susceptible to smut and crown rust and is below average in test weight and groat percentage.

Although Bonanza has the yield and other favorable characteristics of the recommended barleys, it is discounted in U.S. markets as a blue variety. Acreage was less than one percent in 1979. Park and Glen are now recommended as high yielding malting barleys.

Considered for the durum wheat list but not added were Calvin and Edmore. Calvin semidwarf was not as good as other varieties at Crookston and Stephen. Edmore yield did not meet that of recommended varieties and test weight was low.

add one--new crop varieties

A variety usually is not eligible for recommendation until it has been tested in Minnesota for at least three years. Tests are conducted by comparing varieties in trial plots at the Agricultural Experiment Stations at St. Paul, Rosemount, Waseca, Lamberton, Morris, Crookston, Grand Rapids, and Becker, and in farmers' fields.

Test plots are handled so that the factors affecting yield and other characteristics are nearly the same for all varieties at each location as is possible. The results are used in revising the recommended list each year. Most of the varieties on the following list are described more fully in the Varietal Trials of Farm Crops, Misc. Report 24. An updated version will be available from Minnesota county extension offices about mid-January.

Recommended Crop Varieties for 1980

<u>Barley:</u>	Manker, Morex, Park, Glen
<u>Oats:</u>	Lyon and Noble
<u>Rye:</u>	Puma and Rymin
<u>Wheat:</u>	Hard Red Spring: Angus, Era, Kitt, Len, Olaf and Wared Durum: Cando, Crosby, Rugby, and Ward Winter: Minter, Winoka, and Roughrider
<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, Vickery and Wilkin
<u>Dry Beans:</u>	Dark Red Kidney: Montcalm Great Northern: Emerson Navy: Seafarer, Snow-Bunting, Snow-Flake, Upland, and Fleetwood Pinto: UI 114 Small White: Aurora Black Turtle Soup: T-39 Small Red Mexican: UI 37
<u>Dry Peas:</u>	Century
<u>Buckwheat:</u>	Mancan
<u>Annual Canarygrass:</u>	Alden

# # #

Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
December 3, 1979

SOURCE: Ron Pitzer (612) 376-3851

Immediate release

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE TO EXAMINE  
THE STATE OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY

The White House Conference on Families was called by President Carter to "examine the strengths of American families, the difficulties they face and the ways in which family life is affected by public policies."

Three national conferences are scheduled for the summer of 1980 in Baltimore, Los Angeles and Minneapolis during June and July. Six regional Minnesota "speak outs" will precede the National Conference in January and February.

"The purpose of the National Conference is to give families the opportunity to discuss their concerns, ideas, successes and problems relating to family life," says \_\_\_\_\_ County Agent \_\_\_\_\_. "The public is invited to give testimony during the Conference either verbally or in writing." Pre-registration forms are available at the \_\_\_\_\_ County Extension Office."

The National Advisory Committee on the White House Conference on Families has identified several overall goals for the National Conferences:

- To develop a process of listening to and involving families themselves, especially those families which have too often been left out of the formulation of policies affecting their lives.
- To share what is known about families--their importance, diversity, strengths, problems, responses to a changing world--and to generate and share new knowledge about families.

-more-

add one--state of american family

-- To identify public policies and other factors which may harm or neglect family life, as well as their differing impact on particular groups and to recommend new policies designed to strengthen and support families.

For more information about the National Conference or the regional speak outs, contact the \_\_\_\_\_ County Extension office.

# # #

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Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
December 3, 1979

SOURCE: Ron Pitzer (612) 376-3851

Immediate release

REGIONAL 'SPEAK OUTS' TO GATHER INFORMATION ON  
FAMILIES FOR NATIONAL WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

Six regional "speak outs" in conjunction with the White House National Conference on Families will take place in Minnesota during the months of January and February. These regional speak outs precede the National Conference scheduled for Minneapolis in the summer of 1980.

The public is invited to speak out at the regional meetings, either verbally or in written statements. Anyone wishing to do so may express concerns regarding families, family life, or thoughts on how Minnesota families can be strengthened and supported. Comments will also be welcome on the effects that public policies, the work place and other forces are having on families in the state and in the nation.

According to \_\_\_\_\_ County Agent \_\_\_\_\_, pre-registration forms will be available at the \_\_\_\_\_ County Extension office. Those not pre-registering still may have an opportunity to speak out at the regional meetings.

"Testimony is open to anyone and everyone--lay people, professionals, public officials," \_\_\_\_\_ says. "Anyone who would like to offer an idea, concern or viewpoint about families or family life or just listen is encouraged to attend."

The speak outs will take place in small group settings, in front of two or three members of the State White House Conference on Families Advisory Committee. An election of delegates who will attend the National Conference will also take place. You may attend any one of the six state speak outs, but you may only vote and testify once.

-more-

add one--family conference

The dates and places for the six regional speak outs are:

Saturday, Jan. 12 (9:00 to 5:00) Rochester--Rochester Community College

Saturday, Jan. 19 (9:00 to 5:00) Minneapolis--Metropolitan Community College

Saturday, Jan. 19 (9:00 to 5:00) Marshall--Southwest State University

Saturday, Jan. 26 (9:00 to 5:00) White Bear Lake--Lakewood Community College

Thursday, Jan. 31 (1:00 to 9:00) Grand Rapids--Holiday Inn

Saturday, Feb. 2 (9:00 to 5:00) Crookston--University of Minnesota, Crookston

Elections will be held over the noon hour at all the speak outs except for the Thursday, Jan. 31 date in Grand Rapids, when the election will be held at 6 p.m.

For more information about the regional speak outs or on the National Conference on Families, contact the \_\_\_\_\_ County Extension office.

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Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
December 3, 1979

Mark Seeley 612/373-0750  
Dale Hicks 612/373-1181  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

CORN BRIEFS...

Unharvested Corn: 16 percent of the 1979 corn crop was still in the field as of December 3 according to the Minnesota Crop Reporting Service. Counties with about half of the crop unharvested include Chisago, Isanti, Benton, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Crow Wing, Aitkin and Rock. About 40 percent is unpicked in Pipestone, Murray, Nobles, and parts of Jackson. From 35 to 40 percent remains in Dodge and Mower counties.

\* \* \* \*

Harvest Weather Outlook: Farmers could reduce their field losses if the weather allows them to continue harvesting through December and into January. Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota extension soil scientist reports, "the National Weather Service December forecast calls for temperatures to be above normal and precipitation below normal. Average daily maximum temperatures in early December range from 29 to 32 degrees F in southern Minnesota. A short warm spell of above normal temperatures would melt most of the present snow cover. By mid-month, normal maximum temperatures are 24-28 degrees F, so even above normal temperatures will probably allow the soils to freeze and permit field traffic again. Frozen ground by mid December, coupled with below normal precipitation, as forecast, should allow farmers to continue harvest later this month."

\* \* \* \*

Planting Outlook: With present levels of soil moisture, particularly on medium and fine-textured soils, getting an early start next spring may be a problem, says Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota soil scientist.

-over-

add 1--corn briefs

Predicting next spring's weather is nearly impossible, Seeley adds. "But we do know that precipitation begins to increase significantly in March and that 6-8 inches of rain total for the season (March, April and May) are normal across the southern third of the state. Most soils in this part of Minnesota are at 75 percent or more of field moisture capacity. It will not take much spring precipitation to saturate them."

Corn Planting Decisions: The main problem unharvested corn could cause next spring would be planting delays, says University of Minnesota extension agronomist Dale Hicks.

"The key point is that this land is not tilled, which means it will dry out and warm up slower," Hicks says. "Any corn-planting delay caused by harvest operations and the condition of untilled soil will lower the yield potential of the 1980 crop."

Hicks recommends that corn be planted on fall-tilled soybean and corn ground as soon as weather and soil conditions allow. "If the labor is available, farmers could be planting at the same time as they are harvesting what remains of last year's crop," Hicks says. "They may even consider planting part of the 1980 crop before they have all of the 1979 corn harvested."

There is one positive aspect of spring harvesting. Corn will have dried down and may not need the drying operation that raised costs for farmers this fall.

\* \* \* \*

Which Hybrids to Plant: Farmers who want maximum yields should plant full-season hybrids next spring, but they may want to obtain a greater percentage of hybrids with a lower maturity rating than what they stocked last year.

Dale Hicks, University of Minnesota extension agronomist, says that because of high soil moisture content and unharvested corn, some farmers may be considering planting short-season hybrids. "I have done a trade-off analysis, and it appears to me it is better economically to plant the most full-season hybrid that's adapted to their area," he says. "The higher yields of these hybrids will more than make up for the increased costs of drying wetter corn next fall."

-more-

add two--corn briefs

The maturity rating of those full-season hybrids may have to be lower, however. A hybrid with a rating of 110 relative maturity units is no longer a maturity-adapted hybrid in southern Minnesota if it is not likely to be planted by May 20, for example.

Based on the averages of field crop trials conducted throughout the state, yield is roughly equal to one bushel per acre for each relative maturity (RM) unit. A hybrid with a 110 RM rating is likely to yield, on the average, 10 more bushels per acre than a shorter maturity hybrid with a 100 RM rating. A map of five maturity zones in the state and a listing of full-season varieties (based on RM units) by planting date and zone can be obtained from your Minnesota county extension office. Ask for Extension Folder 314.

# # # #

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
December 3, 1979

Source: Earl Fuller 612/373-1145

TAX BRIEFS. . .

Estimated Tax Report: This may be a good year for farmers to consider filing an estimated income tax report, says Earl Fuller, University of Minnesota farm management specialist. The advantage is that there will be less pressure on the preparer and more time to do it right. "For instance, if you have someone else help you, this will give the preparer more time to figure out the best depreciation procedures to fit your tax circumstances. Forms may not be available as soon as you would like and this will give you more time to get the correct forms."

The primary disadvantages are that there will be another form (1040-ES) to fill out and the bulk of your estimated tax liability will be due at the time of preliminary filing. This must be done by Jan. 16 to qualify you for the late filing. The final tax payment will be due April 15 if you file and estimate.

\* \* \* \*

Splitting Electric and Phone Bills: Have you reviewed the tax expense splits you are making between farm business and household on your electric bill and your phone bill lately? With more and more long distance calls being made and more electric farm equipment in place, perhaps the rules that have been used for years are no longer the proper ones. How many of your long distance phone calls are for business purposes? In most cases it is almost all of them. You probably wouldn't have extension phones if it wasn't for the farm business.

"Whatever split you make, you need to be prepared to defend it if you are audited," says Earl Fuller, University of Minnesota farm management specialist. "The rule here is one of reasonableness. With a farm business growing the way it is these days, the traditional splits of 50/50 or so are really quite out-of-date on most farms."

\* \* \* \*

-over-

add one--tax briefs. . .

Lease Machinery to Offspring: 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 or daughter get the credit they need to put their business together, Fuller adds.

"If you set the lease up so that the son or daughter is responsible for repairs, maintenance, insurance and lease payments until the end of the lease, 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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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
December 3, 1979

Source: Gerald Steuernagel 612/373-1014  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney 612/373-0714

#### PREDICTING NEXT MONTH'S MILK YIELD RESEARCHED

Using information collected through his present record-keeping system, a member of Minnesota's Dairy Herd Improvement Association may soon be able to predict each cow's daily production one month in advance.

University of Minnesota dairy scientists have come up with a way of measuring the expected change in a herd's milk production. This prediction can then be compared to actual yield. In this way, the herd can be closely monitored for production problems based on performance of individual cows taking into account lactation stage and age.

"Using the Minnesota DHI records it is difficult to evaluate how well a herd is doing on a month to month basis," says Gerald Steuernagel, chief author of the prediction study. One of his objectives was to develop a technique to measure individual cow performance throughout lactation. With the current system, changes or trends in test day average production are difficult to interpret because of variation in lactation stages and ratio of young to older cows.

"By incorporating an estimated production in the DHI program for each individual cow, the average change from the previous day for the entire herd should indicate whether or not the herd has taken an abnormal drop on any given day," Steuernagel explains. Breaking the herd into different groups by age and lactation stage helps pinpoint a problem. "For example, if first lactation animals less than 100 days in milk do not produce as much as expected it might be an indication that heifers have not been properly conditioned for high production."

Individual cows falling far short of expected production could be listed and investigated.



add one--predicting next month's milk yield researched

The factors that go into the prediction equation include age at calving, herd average level of production, season, number of dry days preceding calving, number of days open, and lactation stage by six-day intervals. Steuernagel and other Minnesota dairy specialists are conducting additional research to refine the equation and find the best way to incorporate it into the regular DHI record-keeping and analysis system. "It could be more than a year yet before it's used in the field," Steuernagel says.

Lactation Review Findings: As part of their prediction study, Steuernagel and researcher C.W. Young reviewed three years of lactation records from 390 Minnesota Holstein herds. Thirty-two of these were among the top producing herds on DHI, and the other 358 were a random sample of all Holstein herds on the official DHI, which includes about one-fourth of the state's herds. Here are some highlights:

--The high-producing herds were less persistent than those in the random sample. Although they had higher output at all stages of lactation, output fell off more sharply after its peak in early lactation for high herds than for average herds.

--Younger cows gave less total milk than older cows, but were more persistent, maintaining a large proportion of their maximum yield over a longer period of time.

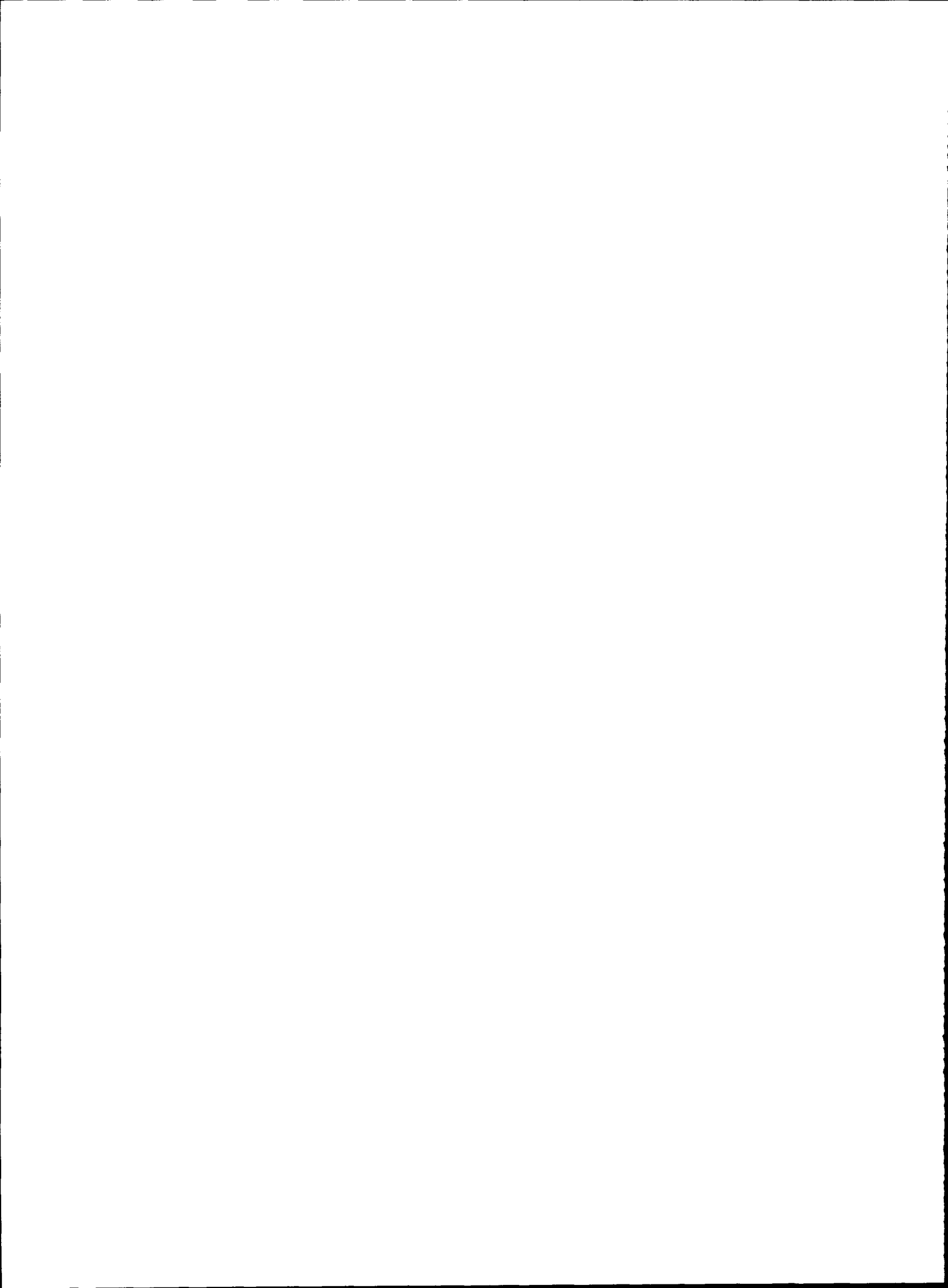
--Cows producing more milk were bred at a later stage of lactation.

--Cows open longer than 60 days were more persistent for the first 305 days of lactation.

--Cows dry less than 40 days preceding calving gave less milk during the first half of the following lactation, indicating a need for a rest period of at least 40 days.

--Cows calving in winter and spring gave more milk during the first half of lactation, but those calving in summer and fall were more persistent.

--Production in summer and fall was 3-4 lbs. lower per day than other months regardless of lactation stage or general herd production level.



Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
December 3, 1979

Source: Ron Pitzer  
(612) 376-3851  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick  
(612) 373-1781

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD:  
HOW SHOULD YOU HANDLE SANTA CLAUS?

In between shopping and wrapping gifts, some parents take the time to wonder what they should tell their children about Santa Claus.

"This really isn't a major problem in most families, but it does deserve some thought," says Ron Pitzer, an extension family life specialist at the University of Minnesota. "Younger children in your home may still believe in jolly old St. Nick, while the older children don't, but did at one time. For them, the transition from belief to disbelief was most likely painless."

Still, some parents wonder if there isn't potential harm in perpetrating the Santa myth. Will the grand stories about the old gent hamper a child's ability to think clearly in terms of cause and effect? Will a child be heartbroken when he or she discovers the inevitable? And isn't the Santa story somehow in conflict with the real story of Christmas?

Santa's role in families

Santa Claus is not one character with one role to play; his act is different in every family and so is his personality.

"In some families, Santa is brought to life, either at the local department store or on Christmas day, when a bearded, stuffed relative hands out gifts," Pitzer says. "Even adults act as if they too believe in the old codger themselves."

"I think this literal interpretation of Santa is the one most fraught with potential disillusionment. What does a child think when she sees 10 different Santas downtown or when he recognizes Uncle Harry beneath the beard and padding?"

Some children are exposed to Santa only through books or television, making him a vague symbol of the season. Parents will mention Santa from time to time, but always with a twinkle in the eye.

add one--how you should handle Santa Claus

"This is my preferred approach and the one most child development specialists advocate," Pitzer says. "I think children should hear about Santa and have fun believing in him."

But when fun turns to fear watch out--Santa should never be used as a disciplinary weapon, Pitzer says.

"Threats from an external force, be it a bogeyman, a policeman, a wild animal or even Santa, are not good ways of controlling a child," he says. "It's better to have no Santa at all than to have Santa as the avenger."

#### When "the truth" comes out

Because a child's early life is filled with fantasy, parents shouldn't worry about the time when a child discovers the truth about Santa, Pitzer says.

"Before the age of five, the boundaries between fact and fiction are always blurred and shifting," he says. "Young children believe what they want to believe. Remember, millions of people have believed in Santa and still have a warm spot in their hearts for the whole idea."

The discovery that Santa isn't real doesn't come all at once; a child may pretend not to hear the bad news until she's ready. Some accept the truth gradually. For instance, a child may deny Santa comes down the chimney, but will insist he lives in the North Pole. Emotional denial of the truth may just precede readiness to understand and believe a new idea, Pitzer says.

When a child finally asks is there REALLY a Santa Claus, he may be telling you he's ready for the real story, or perhaps he wants to hear you clear up only one part of the myth. Before launching into a long discourse, ask the child what she thinks and take your cues from there.

"This is the time to tell your child what Christmas and Santa really mean to you," Pitzer says. "Replace the make-believe with a meaningful and significant reality. You might explain that Santa is a spirit or feeling of love and giving, of wanting to do things for people you love to make them happy."

add two--how you should handle Santa Claus

### Santa and the Christmas story

The sentiment symbolized by our conception of Santa Claus is one of love and giving, characteristics also associated with Christ. Before the age of three, it's difficult for a child to grasp much of either story, but after that age a child can understand both the story of nativity and that of Santa Claus.

"Parents who want to emphasize the religious aspects of Christmas stress that Santa, just as everything we have, comes from God the giver of all gifts," Pitzer says. "Remember, Santa is the anglicized version of St. Nicholas, a real Christian saint of the third century and a legendary character in his own right. In fact, many of our Christmas traditions can be traced back to St. Nicholas, such as carol singing and the Christmas tree, to name only two."

Many adults can remember the bittersweet realization that Santa Claus wasn't as they believed him to be. Still, most of us lived through it and grew to be stable adults. A quote from Dr. William Blatz seems to sum it all up:

"I have never known a child who was harmed by believing in Santa Claus. I have known some adults who would have been improved if they only had believed in him or at least what he stands for."

# # # #

The following information is provided for your information:

1. The total number of units is 100.

2. The number of units in each category is as follows:

- Category A: 20 units
- Category B: 30 units
- Category C: 40 units
- Category D: 10 units

3. The total number of units is 100.

4. The number of units in each category is as follows:

- Category A: 20 units
- Category B: 30 units
- Category C: 40 units
- Category D: 10 units

5. The total number of units is 100.

6. The number of units in each category is as follows:

- Category A: 20 units
- Category B: 30 units
- Category C: 40 units
- Category D: 10 units

7. The total number of units is 100.

8. The number of units in each category is as follows:

- Category A: 20 units
- Category B: 30 units
- Category C: 40 units
- Category D: 10 units

9. The total number of units is 100.

10. The number of units in each category is as follows:

- Category A: 20 units
- Category B: 30 units
- Category C: 40 units
- Category D: 10 units



# Your Pet's Health



Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota

December 3, 1979

SOURCE: Michael Pullen 612/373-1126  
WRITER: Cori Scarbnick 612/373-1781

## SHOULD YOU GIVE PETS AS CHRISTMAS GIFTS?

At Christmas time it's often tempting to buy a small puppy or kitten as a gift for someone you love. If you really care about that person, make another selection, says University of Minnesota extension veterinarian Michael Pullen.

"A pet is a very personal item and should be selected by the recipient," Pullen says. "A child less than six years old is usually not equipped to either appreciate or care for a pet. And although a pet is often purchased for an individual in the family, it still requires the efforts of the entire family unit for its care and training."

Careful deliberation and planning is a must before bringing a pet into a home. Many factors should be considered: size, sex, disposition, breed, animal's tendency to shed, whether it will be an indoor or outdoor pet are just a few things to think about.

"Holiday time is not the best time to give or receive a new pet," Pullen says. "There are too many distractions which prevent the animal from receiving proper attention at this time of year. Upon receiving a pet, the new owner may not have planned for its arrival. Proper housing and food may not be available. If the pet is going to a small child, she may look at the animal as just another toy. Often the pet becomes a nuisance and is treated as such."

add 1--pets as Christmas gifts

If you're still determined to buy a pet as a gift, never gift wrap it or place it in a box. While this may be a cute way of giving, this cruel practice has taken the lives of many puppies and kittens.

Try to give the pet to the new owner in the morning, so that the animal has the entire day to become acquainted with its new surroundings and owners. A small box of food or even a small bed would be a suitable accompanying present.

"Every effort should be made to provide a calm and stable new home for the animal," Pullen says. Puppies and kittens are very vulnerable; their personalities can be damaged by traumatic experiences during the early stages of their arrival into your home. A good start will almost guarantee a healthy well-adjusted pet.

"Remember, a pet is a living thing which will interact with its environment--good or bad."

# # # #

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Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
December 3, 1979

SOURCE: Marvin Smith  
(612) 373-0720

Immediate release

CHRISTMAS TREES APPRECIATE  
DAILY DRINK OF WATER

Keeping your natural Christmas tree well-watered reduces chances of fire and preserves that fresh evergreen aroma throughout the holiday season, says University of Minnesota extension forester Marvin Smith.

"A Christmas tree with moisture in its branches and needles is no more flammable than a damp leaf," Smith reports. "Christmas trees respond quickly to being watered as soon as you bring them home from the lot, if the tree is reasonably fresh when purchased."

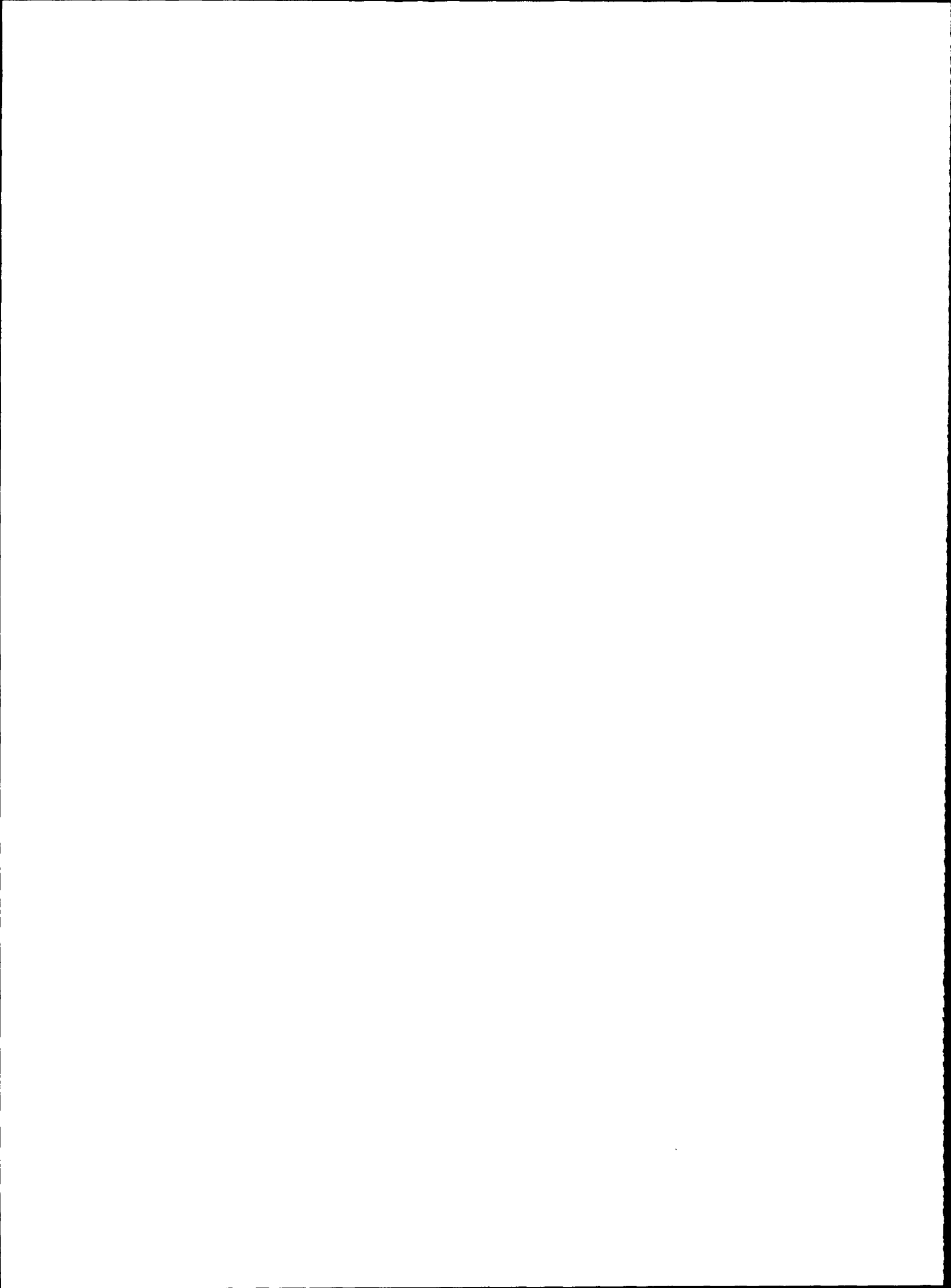
A really dry tree, one that will not be able to absorb moisture, may look washed out and faded like a house plant that has not been watered. Take care of your fresh tree by sawing off about an inch of the butt straight across (not at an angle) before placing it in the stand. The cut removes clotted resins that prevent the tree from drinking.

Adding sugar or aspirin to the water won't help the tree stay fresh. Some tests indicate sugar may make the tree more flammable. "There's nothing better than just plain tap water," Smith says.

Once the tree is securely mounted, keep the stand filled with water by adding to it daily. A tree may absorb from a pint to a gallon of water daily, depending on size and condition.

The trend back to the use of natural trees at Christmas, which started about 1974, is continuing. About 30 million families in the U.S. purchase natural Christmas trees. Growers report that they plan to plant three trees next spring for each one harvested this fall.

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Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
December 3, 1979

Source: William Angell (612) 373-0910

Immediate release

#### FTC POSTPONES NEW INSULATION REGULATIONS UNTIL DEC. 31

A new Federal Trade Commission (FTC) ruling on the labeling and advertising of home insulation will go into effect Dec. 31, 1979, one month later than originally planned, the FTC recently announced.

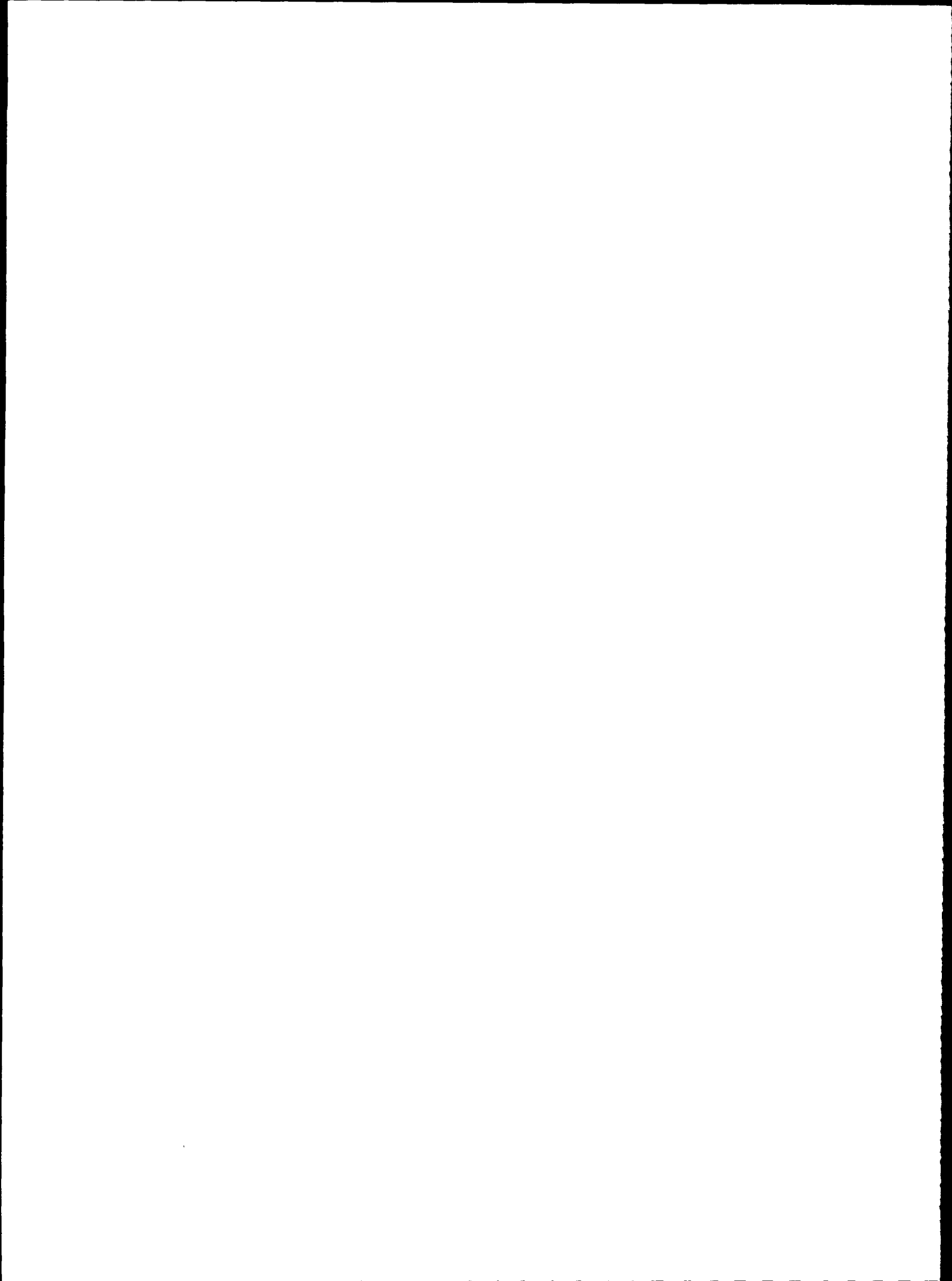
The new regulations are designed to help consumers buying home insulation by reducing unfair and deceptive sales claims about insulation materials. The ruling requires that consumers be provided with accurate and comparative information concerning the effectiveness of home insulation products before a purchase is made.

According to William Angell, an extension housing specialist at the University of Minnesota, the delay appears to be the result of technical questions which arose over the use of standard test procedures for determining R-value, a measure of insulating power. The FTC now has one more month to develop fair and workable compliance guidelines on representative thickness testing, Angell explained, adding that this has been a principal point of contention throughout the rulemaking proceedings.

"It remains imperative that consumers comparison shop and exercise caution when purchasing insulation even after the rule goes into effect," Angell says. "For the most part, I see the ruling having only minimum benefits for the consumer."

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Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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WRITER: Jack Sperbeck  
(612) 373-0715

Immediate release

NEW BOOK TRACES DEVELOPMENT  
OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

Contemporary U.S. agriculture is the result of decisions made earlier. And understanding the past is imperative for planning the future.

That's the central theme of a new book entitled "The Development of American Agriculture: A Historical Analysis," by Willard W. Cochrane.

Cochrane says the long historical development of American agriculture is poorly understood and appreciated by many people with close ties to agriculture--farm people themselves, professional agriculturalists, agribusiness leaders and political leaders from rural areas.

"The words and acts of these people often seem to suggest that the present-day agricultural sector of the U.S. economy jumped fully-developed into the twentieth century from some unknown past romantic age.

"But this is not the way it happened. The agricultural sector of the United States developed sometimes slowly, sometimes rapidly, ...from 1607 to the present day. And it did not develop easily; it developed over much of the period through a trial and error process in which the farmers of one generation learned from the mistakes and failures of the previous generation."

The book was published by the University of Minnesota Press, 2037 University Ave. Southeast, Minneapolis 55455.

Cochrane is an agricultural economist at the University of Minnesota. In 1960 he was agricultural adviser to John Kennedy in the presidential campaign. He was director of agricultural economics in the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1961-64.

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and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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4-H NEWS

Immediate release

U.S. SENATOR PRAISES  
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Former 4-H'er and announced presidential candidate U.S. Senator Larry Pressler challenged youth to become self-directed, productive members of society during the National 4-H Congress in Chicago Nov. 25-29.

Pressler addressed the value of youth development programs during his keynote address. The 4-H program costs taxpayers about \$12.75 for each youth member of the organization, for a return to the country of about one-half billion dollars worth of youth development, the senator from South Dakota reported.

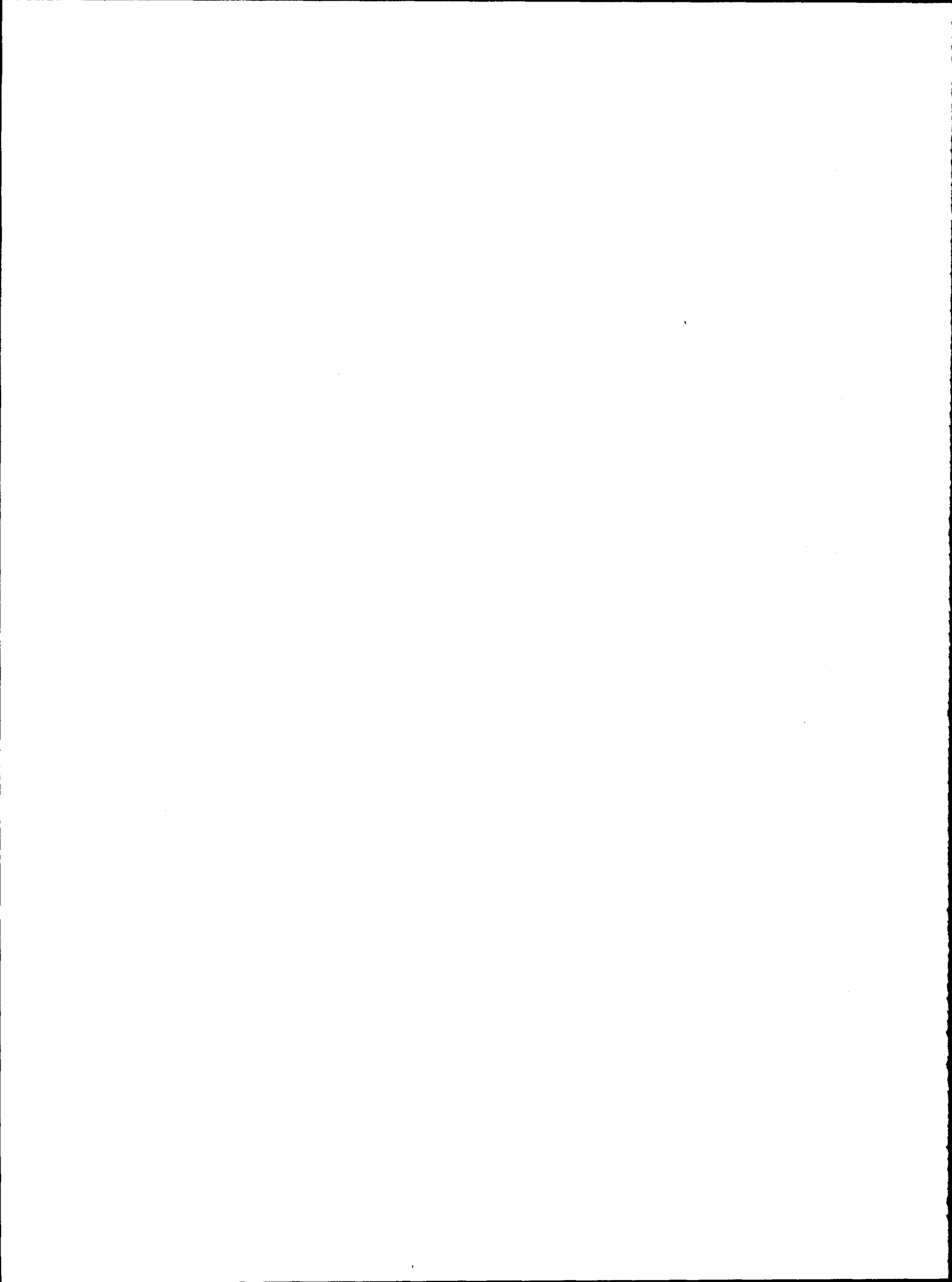
The U.S. government contributes about \$64,000,000 to aid the work of 580,000 volunteer leaders. Each leader donates more than \$1,000 in time, supplies, and transportation. That amounts to a return of about \$10 of volunteer value for each federal dollar invested.

During their five-day visit to Chicago, the 4-H'ers divided their time between sightseeing and getting acquainted with the other 1,700 delegates from across the country. Designed to provide a platform for recognizing outstanding young people, National 4-H Congress also gave delegates a healthy balance of educational, inspirational and entertaining activities.

The 4-H'ers were involved in discussions about personal development issues, dealing with peer pressure, communications with others, my parents and me, and teenage stress. National 4-H Congress closed Thursday evening, Nov. 29, with the naming of six Presidential Award winners, a banquet and a farewell party.

# # #

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Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
December 10, 1979

Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

## ENERGY BRIEFS. . .

Transition to Renewables: Farmers will once again rely on renewable energy resources to produce food, just as they did a few decades ago, Al Johnson, Minnesota energy agency director, told dairy farmers in St. Cloud Dec. 6.

Non-renewable petroleum now does the work once performed by horses and humans. In the future alcohol fuel from crops and from plant wastes, methane from animal wastes, wind and solar-combined with conservation-will make the farmer independent of the "petroleum addiction" plaguing the rest of the country.

Addressing the younger farmers in the audience, Johnson said, "All of your productive lives will be spent making the transition to renewable resources and energy conservation."

Farm-produced alcohol will aid in this transition, but should not be counted on as a major new market for corn crops. "If we were criticized a few years ago for putting corn through cattle, we will get criticized for putting corn through Cadillacs," Johnson said. Using plant wastes for alcohol production and feeding fermentation byproducts to livestock could limit such negative public opinion.

The energy chief warned against increased use of propane in corn drying. "We brought 3-5 times as much propane into the state this year as a year ago. President Carter has included propane in his import limitations. If we are going to use propane, we will be looking more and more to imports."

\* \* \* \*

Alcohol Byproducts: The dairy cow's unique digestive system allows her to make especially efficient use of distillers grain--the high protein byproduct from converting corn into alcohol fuel.

-over-



add one--energy briefs

Don Otterby, University of Minnesota animal scientist, reviewed the "book values" of distillers grain as a feed for cows during the Central Minnesota Dairy Seminar in St. Cloud Dec. 6.

"It looks to me like this particular product could be very good as far as providing protein in the dairy ration," Otterby said. "As food and fuel problems become more critical, I think we will try to make better use of these byproducts in our feeding programs."

Distillers grain has a slightly lower energy value than corn. It contains about 60 percent as much crude protein as soybean meal when compared on a dry matter basis. One advantage is that a smaller percentage of the distillers grain protein content is degraded in the rumen than the protein from soybean meal.

A 100-cow herd needing 23 tons of soybean meal for supplemental protein each year would need about 38 tons of distillers grain to obtain an equivalent amount of protein. Converting 5,000 bushels of corn to alcohol could result in 35-40 tons of the byproduct dry matter.

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Immediate release

#### CHRISTMAS BRIEFS. . .

Buy Safe Toys: To be sure the toys you select for your favorite boy or girl are safe, ask yourself a few questions before you buy, say University of Minnesota extension family life specialists.

Do dolls and stuffed animals have button eyes that may be pulled off and swallowed by young children?

Will the toy break or chip easily?

Are there metal corners on the toy that could cut or scratch the child?

Is there any danger from poisonous or lead-based paints on the toy?

Are there easy to understand instructions included for the toy's operation?

\* \* \* \*

Keeping Holly Fresh: A few sprigs of fresh holly can add a festive touch to holiday arrangements. Treat fresh holly as you would fresh flowers, says an extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota. Re-cut the stems and place the holly in water. At night, or when you're not using the arrangement for decoration, keep the holly in water in a cool place above freezing temperatures.

\* \* \* \*

Keeping Your Tree Fresh: Some people will swear that additives will help keep a Christmas tree fresh longer than just plain old water.

"Probably not so," says an extension forester at the University of Minnesota. "Glycerin, sugar, syrup, or even aspirin have been used as additives, but research has shown that no combination of water and these additives did any more good than water alone."

\* \* \* \*

add one--Christmas briefs

Christmas Turkey Tips: If you're "talking turkey" this Christmas, here are some tips to follow from Robert Berg, University of Minnesota extension poultry specialist:

--The best place to thaw your bird is right in the refrigerator, but if you haven't any room, place the bird in its plastic wrapping in a sealed paper grocery bag, which will hold in the cold air around the bird, Berg says. Figure about one pound per hour or so for thawing time. If your turkey thaws sooner than you expected, place it in the refrigerator until you're ready to cook it.

--If you're really in a hurry, place your turkey in a sink filled with cold water. Change the water every so often. A 12-pound bird should thaw in four to five hours this way.

--It's a warning that's almost as old as Christmas itself, but never stuff a turkey the night before you roast it to save time the next morning. This could cause a serious food poisoning hazard, Berg warns. After your feast, remove all traces of the dressing from your bird as soon as possible and store it in the refrigerator separate from the turkey. By the way, refrigerated turkey, when stored at temperature at or below 32 degrees F, will keep for about one week.

--The supply of turkeys in Minnesota this year is pretty good, Berg says. If you haven't bought your bird yet, plan on paying at least 79 cents or more per pound at most stores. Figure on at least 3/4 pound of ready-to-cook weight per serving for a bird in excess of 12 pounds. For turkeys less than 12 pounds, allow 3/4 to one pound per serving.

\* \* \* \*

After Christmas: A Christmas tree's usefulness isn't over at the end of the holiday season, advises Marv Smith, University of Minnesota extension forester. It can be put to many additional uses around the home.

For example, the boughs can be chopped off and used as a mulch around flower beds. The tree can also be set upright in the yard and bird food attached to it to

-more-

add two--Christmas briefs

serve as a bird feeder. A green tree often adds a cheery spot to a bleak garden in the heart of winter. If you have a fireplace, there's no better wood than that from a Christmas tree. The needles add a pleasant aroma to the house and the trunk furnishes the home with additional firewood.

Instead of bonfires, more and more cities are using commercial chippers to dispose of their Christmas trees. The chips are useful for garden walks and other purposes around the home, particularly as decorative mulches around flower beds.

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Source: Deborah Brown  
(612) 376-7574

POTTED CHRISTMAS TREES  
A WASTE OF MONEY,  
HORTICULTURIST SAYS

Potted Christmas trees that can be planted in your back yard after the Christmas season are now being touted nationwide.

"You might read about the advisability of buying a potted tree, but this advice is undoubtedly directed to people in warmer parts of the country," says Deborah Brown, an extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota. "In Minnesota, you'd just be wasting your money."

If you'd like a potted Christmas tree that will outlast the season consider buying a Norfolk Island Pine, a popular houseplant, rather than a potted outdoor tree such as one of the native pines or spruces used in landscaping, Brown says. Given proper care, the Norfolk Island Pine will last for years, growing larger and more attractive with age.

It's next to impossible to bring an outdoor evergreen into your home and then put it outside again in Minnesota's climate--the tree simply can't take the change in temperature, Brown says.

"It's also unrealistic to try to keep an outdoor tree growing indoors until it could be planted in the spring, since indoor growing conditions are a far cry from what the tree needs in winter," Brown says. "Your tree probably wouldn't last too long."

Stick with the traditional, freshly cut tree, or the tropical Norfolk Island Pine, Brown says. "That way you won't be disappointed."

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Source: Clif Halsey 612/373-1060  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

SOIL CONSERVATION PUBLIC POLICY  
TOPIC AT JANUARY CONFERENCE

Individuals interested in government efforts to conserve soil are invited to a soil conservation policy conference Friday, Jan. 11, 1980, Bloomington, Minn.

"We will be exploring present and proposed laws that deal with soil erosion," says Clif Halsey, University of Minnesota extension conservationist. "Legislation and regulation at the various levels of government will be reviewed, with an eye toward the future."

The conference will be held at the Sheraton Airport Inn on Interstate 494. It is part of the annual meeting of the Minnesota Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America (SCSA).

State Representative Elton Redalen will speak on soil loss limits legislation. He represents a district in southeastern Minnesota. SCSA national president William Moldenhauer will review critical concerns in soil conservation. Luther Gerlach, anthropology professor at the University of Minnesota, will discuss people's attitudes toward private rights and mandatory legislation. A U.S. Department of Agriculture official will describe his agency's direction in coordinating incentive programs.

A panel discussion on "Where Are We Now" features agency representatives Vernon Reinert of the Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Board, Harry Major of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Ron Lyberger of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Marcel Jouseau of the Metropolitan Council.

Minnesota's energy chief Al Johnson will address the Minnesota Chapter, SCSA banquet Thursday evening, Jan. 10. The director of the state energy agency will speak on "Conserving Energy, the Farmer and the City Dweller."

The public is invited to attend the banquet and conference and to register in advance. Registration forms may be obtained from Dwayne Breyer, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, 200 Federal Building and Courthouse, 316 North Robert St., St. Paul, MN 55101, (612) 725-7670.

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(Note to Agents: These items were taken  
from the fall 1979 edition of the National  
Food Review, a publication of the USDA.)

#### FOOD BRIEFS. . .

Where Food Dollars Go: American consumers reduced their spending on restaurant meals and snacks during the second quarter of 1979, but total food expenditures rose because purchases made in the nation's food stores were moderately higher, reports The National Food Review, a publication of the USDA.

The increase in grocery store spending was largely a result of higher prices. According to the Department of Commerce, food expenditures during spring, 1979 totaled \$263.1 billion compared with \$260 billion in the previous quarter and \$237 billion during the second quarter of 1978.

Expenditures for away-from-home eating dropped from \$66.8 billion during the first quarter of 1979 to \$65.6 billion in the second quarter, in part due to spot shortages, higher gasoline prices, and the fact that the cost of eating out had also sharply risen.

\* \* \* \*

Trends in Food Service: Expenditures for food eaten away from home reached \$87 billion in 1978, 35 percent of the total expenditures made for food. This is an increase of 26 percent over 1960. Today, about one-third of all meals and snacks are consumed away from home, a trend that is expected to continue. Factors associated with growth in the food eaten away from home include rising incomes, changes in lifestyles and the fact that more women are employed outside of the home.

\* \* \* \*

Meat Expenditures: The average retail price for red meat has risen more than 250 percent since 1950, reports The National Food Review, a publication of the USDA. Annual per capita consumption of red meat during this period has increased 18 percent, to an estimated 148.5 pounds in 1979.

-over-

add one--food briefs

Despite these increases, consumers are devoting a smaller proportion of their per capita after-tax income to red meat.

In 1950, consumers spent about \$80 per person for red meat, or 5.9 percent of after-tax income. Forecasts for 1979 indicate that per person expenditures for red meat will exceed \$285, less than four percent of after-tax income.

Americans are eating more meat than they did in 1950, and are also eating different kinds of meat. Some of the increases:

--Poultry, 17 percent of all meat consumed in 1950; 29 percent in 1979.

--Beef, 33 percent of all meat consumed in 1950; 40 percent in 1979.

--Pork, 42 percent of all meat consumed in 1950; 31 percent in 1979.

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(Note to Agents: These items were  
taken from the National Food Review,  
a publication of the USDA.)

#### FOOD MARKETING BRIEFS. . .

Food expenditures: Consumers spent \$208 billion in 1978 for domestically produced farm foods. This includes food purchased directly from retail food stores, restaurants and other public eating places.

Expenditures for farm foods rose about 11 percent in 1978, mainly due to the 10-percent rise in retail prices, while the volume of farm food marketed increased about one percent. The rise in expenditures in 1978 reversed a slowing in the rate of increase during the past four years.

\* \* \* \*

Farm value: The marketing system received about \$67 per \$100 for food products purchased by or for civilian consumers in 1978. This was 17 percent above 1977 and the first significant annual increase since 1974.

Farm value represented 32 percent of the retail value expenditures for farm foods in 1978. This was one percentage point higher than 1977, but was below the decade average of 33 percent.

\* \* \* \*

The marketing bill: The marketing bill--the total annual charge for transporting, processing and distributing domestic farm foods--is the difference between what consumers spend for farm foods and what farmers receive for food products.

The 1978 marketing bill for farm foods totaled \$141 billion, nine percent higher than 1977. The increase was largely due to rising input costs, particularly for labor and packaging materials.

Component costs: Direct labor is the largest cost of processing and distributing farm foods, totaling \$66 billion in 1978. Containers and packaging materials, the second largest component of the marketing bill, cost \$17.7 billion, a nine percent increase over 1977.

add one--food marketing briefs

Rail and truck transportation amounted to \$10.8 billion in 1978, up eight percent over 1977. The increase was caused by the hike in freight rates, with railroad freight rates rising faster than trucking rates.

Profits earned by corporate firms marketing U.S. farm food accounted for seven percent of the marketing bill, or \$9.5 billion in 1978, about 12 percent above the 1977 figure.

Labor, packaging materials, transportation and corporate profits account for about 74 percent of the total marketing bill. There are other costs incurred in performing marketing functions: business taxes, energy, depreciation, rent, advertising, repairs, interest are some. In 1978, these costs totaled \$36.5 billion, six percent above 1977.

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# Safety Corners

Monthly emphasis for January 1980-April 1980

JANUARY

## SAFETY CORNER



### PREVENT HOME FALLS

Falls in and around the home rank high as a cause of accidental death and disability. Here are some ways to help you stay on your feet. Choose proper footwear. Remove snow and ice from walks and steps or spread de-icers or sand. Use handrails when going up and down steps. Have adequate lighting in dark halls and stairways. Avoid tripping hazards by putting things away when you are through with them. Clean up spills immediately. Slow down, watch your step.

FEBRUARY

## SAFETY CORNER



### FARM TRACTOR SAFETY

Modern farm tractors are safer and more comfortable than ever to operate. But, they don't think for themselves. Operate and maintain your tractor according to the instruction manual. Allow only trained, competent people to run your tractor. Avoid tractor trippers like ditches, steep slopes, holes, and other obstacles. Keep children away from tractors and other equipment. Keep the PTO shields in place and shut off power before dismounting. Adjust your travel speed to conditions—slow down on rough, muddy, or slippery ground.

MARCH

## SAFETY CORNER



### READ THE LABEL

Before using any chemical product, read the *entire* label. Even if you have used the product before, scan the label again to refresh your memory. The label tells you what you must know to use the chemical effectively and safely. Insist that others who work with you or for you read the label. If you do not understand anything on it, call your dealer or an agricultural authority for advice. Don't just read the label—follow the instructions to the letter.

APRIL

## SAFETY CORNER



### ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Electricity is one of our ablest servants. Use it wisely and carefully to avoid fire, shock, and waste. Buy quality electrical products. Check their construction and be sure they carry the UL or FM label. Follow product instruction manual recommendations on use and care of appliances and tools. Periodically inspect wiring, appliances, power tools, and other electrical equipment. Never overload electrical circuits. Use proper fuses and don't substitute. Watch for overhead lines when working with tall equipment, ladders, or long pipes.

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Ron Pitzer  
(612) 376-3851  
Writer: Cori Scarbnick  
(612) 373-1781

MAKE CHRISTMAS DAY A JOY  
FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

The excitement of Christmas sometimes brings with it certain hazards: weeks of hectic shopping, busy preparations and anxious anticipation can create nervous tension, over-exhaustion and anxiety for the whole family, from parents to the tiniest tot.

"With the build-up involving all the members of the family, it's no wonder that Christmas Day is sometimes marked by short tempers and youngster's tears," says Ron Pitzer, an extension family life specialist at the University of Minnesota. "To make this important event a memorable one for everyone, try to slow down the hectic pace to avoid unhappy problems."

Starting Christmas Day with a good, filling breakfast will meet your family's immediate need for nourishment and will help keep emotions calm. Try to prepare a meal that is easy to fix and serve. A little fruit, toast and hot chocolate, or anything simple, could be served even as gifts are being opened.

After everyone's admired all the new gifts, parents might want to remove those games and puzzles with many pieces from the busy scene for a later, calmer time, Pitzer says. "Keeping busy with these kinds of tasks will also keep an over-helpful parent from skimming part of the cream off a young child's fun by showing her how a toy works or how she is supposed to play with it."

Children revel in excitement but are vulnerable to its excesses. A child's joy can quickly disintegrate into a sudden tantrum or a burst of tears. "While this may be bothersome for parents, this kind of behavior acts as a tension reliever for the child," Pitzer says. "If you can ride along without feeling compelled to react by soothing or punishing, these episodes tend to pass and the child will soon regain his composure."

add one--christmas day a joy for entire family

A nap or a quiet time at mid-day will do wonders for the dinner-time spirits of children and parent alike. If a nap is totally out of the question, reading aloud from a new story book or an old favorite will help break the grip of mounting tension.

"All this talk of excitement and tension would seem to suggest that Christmas Day is usually unpredictable and explosive," Pitzer says. "True enough, it can be. It's a good idea to take precautions against the day's pitfalls, just as you plan to make the most of the day's pleasures."

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
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Source: Willard Cochrane  
612/376-3560  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

COCHRANE CALLS FOR U.S.  
YOUNG FARMER PROGRAM

The federal government should help young families get started in farming in order to combat the trend toward farm bigness, University of Minnesota agricultural economist Willard Cochrane told a policy seminar in Red Wing Dec. 12.

Cochrane called for several new policies to guide agriculture, including a U.S. Department of Agriculture program for young farmers. Such a program would have a goal of "assisting perhaps 1,000 young farm families to get started each year on economically viable sized and financed units," he said.

Such a program would involve three main activities:

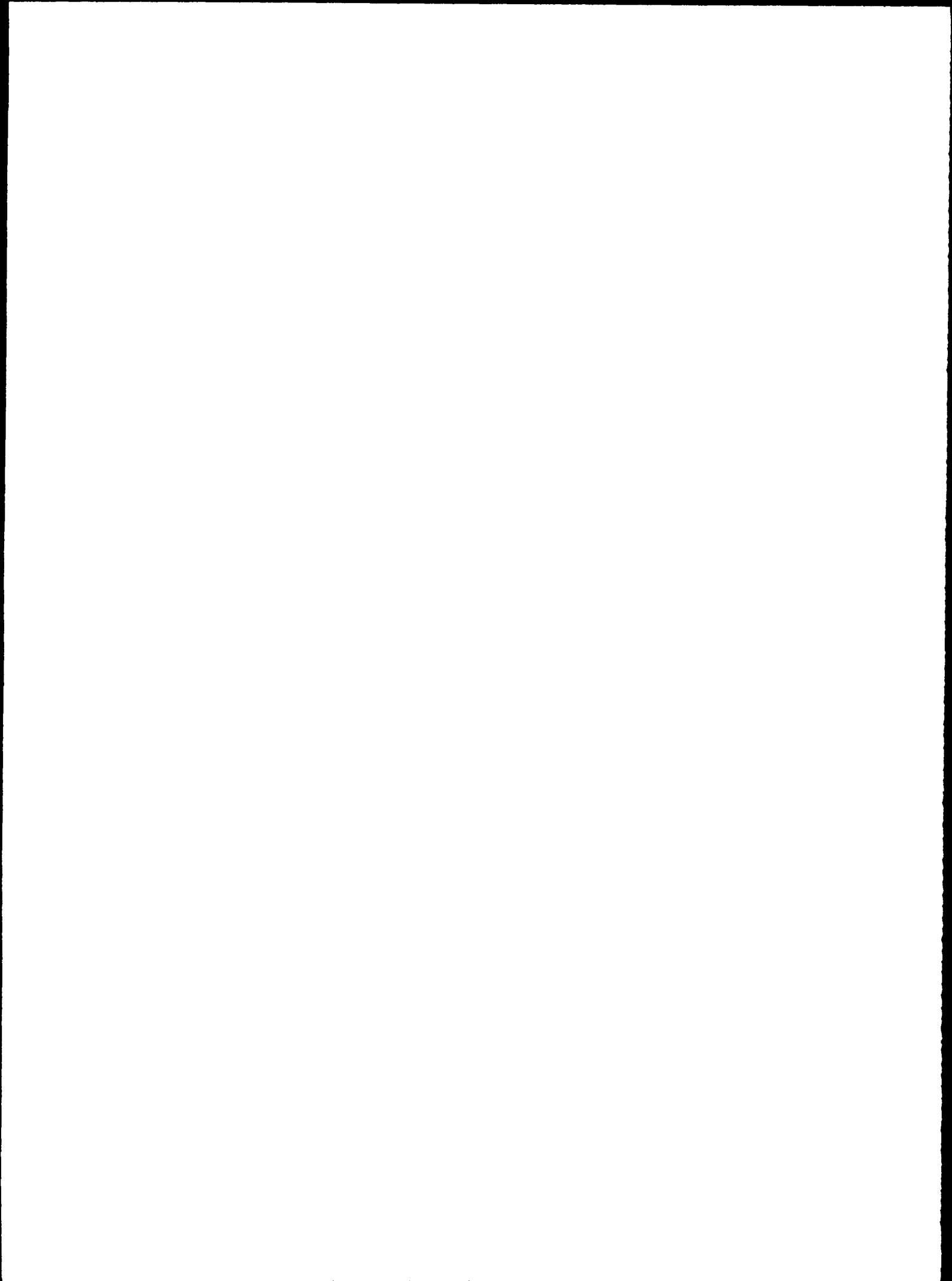
- The selection of young families with the training and education adequate to enable them to manage and operate an efficient family farm
- Assisting these families to locate a farm to purchase or rent, providing the credit or underwriting the credit needed by them to get started, and working out a repayment schedule that is economically feasible
- Working with each family for at least 10 years to prepare annual farm budgets, appraise new technological developments and enterprises, and review financial commitments.

"The above program if vigorously implemented, would demonstrate to all concerned that the government of the United States was serious about maintaining a family farm structure of agriculture," Cochrane said.

A revision of income tax laws that allow "fast write-off" of farm machinery, and encourage farmers to purchase new and bigger machines every few years, could also discourage farm size. Cochrane proposed that depreciation provisions of such laws be rewritten so as "not to impair the efficiency of economically sized production units, but not to act as an inducement to the continuous expansion of individual farm units."

Cochrane was director of agricultural economics for USDA from 1961-64. The Red Wing seminar, "Agriculture: How Change Affects Its Institutions," was part of a series of policy programs offered by the University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service.

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Craig Sheaffer  
(612) 373-1677

Writer: Jack Sperbeck  
(612) 373-0715

FORAGE DAY SET  
FOR FEB. 28 AT  
ST. CLOUD

Minnesota's fifth annual Forage Day is scheduled for Feb. 28, 1980 at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud.

The program theme is "Protein--Grow Your Own." Featured speakers include Mark W. Seetin, Minnesota commissioner of agriculture; Richard L. Vetter, director of research, Harvester Productions, Inc.; and Roman Popp, Minnesota's 1979 Premier Forage Producer.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Topics on the agenda include protein and the ruminant, economics of forage harvesting and storage, weather analysis and hay harvesting, and insect and weed control in alfalfa.

The program will consist of speakers during the morning session and concurrent producer-forage specialist workshops in the afternoon.

The program is sponsored by the Minnesota Forage and Grassland Council. Advance reservations may be made by writing the council at 213 Agronomy, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.

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Source: Phillip Harein  
612/373-1705

Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

## STORED GRAIN BRIEFS. . .

Statewide Stored Grain Survey: The search continues for information that will improve management of stored grain. Insect infestation surveys are one vital part of that search.

Pilot surveys by University of Minnesota entomologists indicated that 33 percent of farm-stored shelled grain could have been graded "weevily" by USDA standards. Potential state-wide loss due to discounting was estimated at \$4.5 million. A survey of insecticide use after harvest in 1978 showed that only three percent of the shelled corn was treated for control of these pests. The researchers have also found that the species of insects causing losses are not the conventional weevils and beetles they had anticipated.

Efforts will be made in 1980 to determine the type and amount of losses from various species of insects. Entomologists also plan to estimate how storage management practices, with and without grain fumigants, would alter future losses.

Approximately 250 scouts, who are ag students at Area Vocational Technical Institutes, will be trained to sample and analyze their own grain. They will provide data for a statewide evaluation of stored grain conditions.

Coordinating these surveys are Phillip Harein, extension entomologist, Howard Deer, assistant extension specialist and Alan Barak, research associate. Funding is provided by the University and the Northwest Pesticide Assessment Program.

\* \* \* \*

New Method: For many years, insect infestations have been prevented or reduced by spraying residual insecticides on the grain as it is conveyed into storage. A simplified method, "drip-on application," does not require the special equipment needed for spraying.

The drip-on applicator consists of two brass plumbing valves, polyethylene tubing and a plastic container to hold the insecticide, reports Phillip Harein, University of

add one--stored grain briefs

Minnesota extension entomologist. The container is suspended over the top of the auger or conveyer with the end of the tubing positioned so the insecticide can drip directly on to the grain. A shut-off cock on the container provides the on-off valve, while a needle valve regulates the amount of chemical applied. For details, ask your county extension director for Entomology Fact Sheet No. 9, "Preventing Stored Grain Insect Infestation."

\* \* \* \*

Professional Fumigation Help: As the size of grain storage structures increases, the need for professionals to aid insect control becomes greater, especially when fumigation is required. "It is often safer, less expensive, and more effective to have your stored grain fumigated by a licensed and certified professional fumigator than to do it yourself," says University of Minnesota extension entomologist Phillip Harein.

This is especially true for single upright bins containing more than 5,000 bushels. Flat storage structures of any size present special problems because of the larger grain surface area where insects can congregate.

\* \* \* \*

Stored Grain Meetings: University of Minnesota extension specialists will give ways to protect stored grain against insects, mold and moisture during meetings this winter. For more information, call your county extension office. Stored Grain Management Meetings are scheduled for:

<u>Town</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Host County</u>
Marshall	Jan. 23	Lyon
Elbow Lake	Feb. 6	Grant
Moorhead	Feb. 7	Clay
Roseau	Feb. 8	Roseau
Greenbush	Feb. 8	Roseau
Willmar	Feb. 22	Kandiyohi
Glenwood	Feb. 21	Pope
Morris	March 10	Stevens
N. Mankato	March 12	Nicollet

These meetings are open to interested persons without regard to race, creed, color, sex, national origin or handicap.

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
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Source: Bob Aherin  
(612) 373-0764

Writer: Cori Scarbnick  
(612) 373-1781

#### WINTER DRIVING BRIEFS. . .

Preparing your car for winter: Be prepared is an old Boy Scout motto which still makes a lot of sense, especially as we approach the coldest part of winter. If you've not done so already, now's the time to get your car ready for cold weather, says Bob Aherin, extension safety specialist at the University of Minnesota.

"Start by checking your battery's fluid level and its charge," Aherin says. "Even maintenance-free batteries may require a check. If you haven't had an engine tune-up in the last six months, do so now. This will help spot problems in the fuel, emission, electrical and other systems before you experience a break-down."

Check the cooling system for leaks and have the anti-freeze level checked. Even so-called permanent anti-freezes won't last forever and should be checked regularly.

Unless you have radial tires, snow tires should be installed, along with a winter grade of oil and anti-freeze in the windshield washers.

\* \* \* \*

Emergency car kit: If you'll be driving in isolated areas or plan to do a lot of long-distance driving, an emergency kit stored in the trunk of your car could be a life saver, says Bob Aherin, an extension safety specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Here's a list of items that might be included in your kit: a sleeping bag, or several warm blankets, and a box of newspapers which will provide insulating warmth in a pinch; two empty coffee cans with lids, candles and dry matches (one can for sanitary purposes, the other for burning candles as a heat source); winter clothing; a large box of facial tissues; a first aid kit with a pocket knife; a flashlight with extra batteries; a small bag of sand; a tow chain, at least 20 feet in length;

add one--winter driving briefs

a shovel; a food supply of high-calorie, non-perishable foods, such as candy, raisins or canned nuts; tools, such as pliers, screwdriver, or adjustable wrench; a plastic scraper; transistor radio with extra batteries; battery booster cables; bright colored rags for a signal flag.

"Anyone trapped in a snowstorm can put automobile parts to good use," Aherin says. "A hubcap or a sun visor can be used as a shovel. Seat covers can be used as blankets. Floor mats can block out cold air from windows. If you're really in a bind, burn a tire. First release the air pressure and then use a rag to obtain gasoline for starter fuel.

\* \* \* \*

If you become stranded: Should you become trapped during a severe storm, it's important not to panic. "Stay with your car at all times. Wandering around in a blizzard or any severe weather is very dangerous," says Bob Aherin, an extension safety specialist at the University of Minnesota. "Do as much as you can under the circumstances, but beware of over-exertion and over-exposure."

Even though temperatures are low, keep a window open at all times for ventilation and make sure the exhaust pipe isn't blocked with snow. Try to move around from time to time, either by clapping your hands, stamping your feet or shifting your weight. If there's more than one person in the car, take turns sleeping while one person keeps watch. If you're alone, stay awake, Aherin says.

"To alert others of your whereabouts, tie a piece of bright colored cloth to the antenna or the door handle on the driver's side of the car," he says. "Your auto's dome light will also attract attention, as will the horn, which may be heard as far as a mile down the road."

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
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Source: Dottie Goss  
(612) 373-0914

#### RETURNS OF THE SEASON

Along with the traditional tree and plum pudding, returning unwanted or unwearable merchandise seems to be an inevitable part of Christmas. Dottie Goss, an extension specialist at the University of Minnesota recommends you return unwanted merchandise as soon as possible; some stores won't accept returns after 10 days.

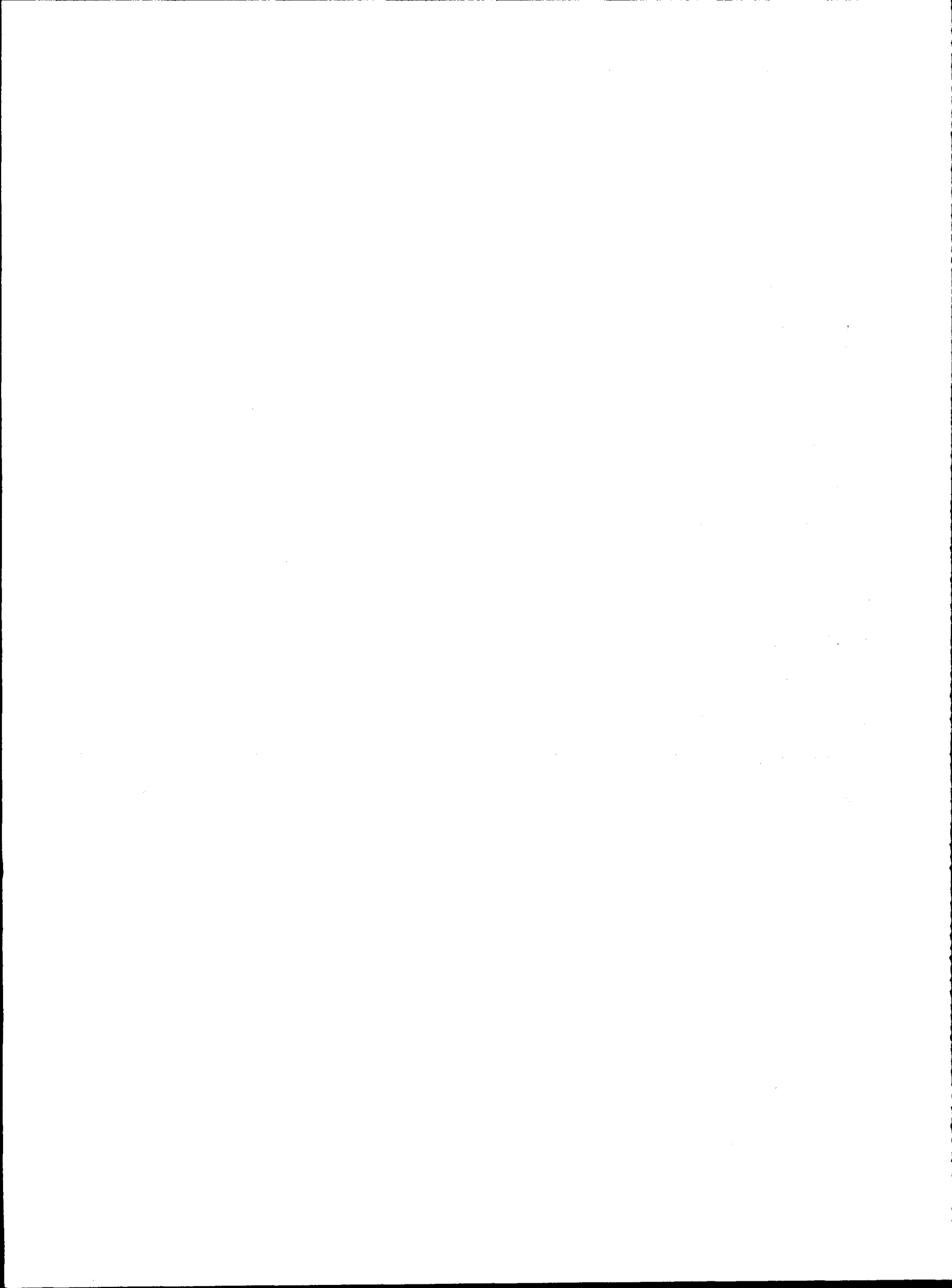
"Try to bring back items when the store isn't very busy," Goss says. "Avoid closing times or the days when the store is having a large sale. If possible, bring a sales receipt with you. Never wear or use anything which you intend to return."

Some stores will only exchange one item for another, or will give you a gift certificate for equal value. If a credit card was used in the original purchase, some stores will just take the credited amount off the bill. If this is the case with a gift item, you should make arrangements with the gift giver.

"Sometimes you will find an item to be defective or broken; in this case, you have a right to return it to the store," Goss says. "If you leave it at the store for repairs, make sure to get a receipt, proving that the item was paid for. If an item is too large to carry back to the store, telephone the manager. Keep a record of the date when you called, who you spoke with and what they said. If you have to call again, tell them about your first call."

Sometimes you'll have to return something by mail. Before sending it, write a letter stating the problem and asking what steps you should take. Keep a copy of the letter for your files. When you actually return the item, clearly state why you're returning it in a letter taped to the top of the package.

If you don't get an answer in two or three weeks, write again, this time sending your complaint to the store's manager. If this does not suffice, contact the consumer protection division of the Minnesota Attorney General's office, 102 Capitol, St. Paul, Minn. 55155, (612) 296-6196.



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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
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Source: Sherri Johnson  
(612) 376-1537

#### CLEANING DUCK AND GOOSE FEATHERS

If there's a hunter in your family who's brought home duck or goose feathers, you're in luck: there's probably nothing as soft or as warm as a down pillow or comforter.

"There are several alternatives for cleaning goose and duck feathers before using them in household items," says Sherri Johnson, an extension textiles specialist at the University of Minnesota. "One method is for feathers which have been dry plucked. The other is for feathers which have been removed by wet scalding."

If feathers have been dry plucked and are somewhat clean as well as dry, put them into a pillow case and take it to a reputable dry cleaner that cleans feather pillows. "Of course you'll want to specify that you want to use the feathers in a comforter or a pillow so they don't sew the feathers into new ticking," Johnson says.

For feathers that have been removed by the wet scalding method, wash the loose feathers in a mild detergent and lukewarm water to remove dirt particles. A gentle washing machine cycle may be used if the feathers have been tightly secured in an empty pillow case by machine stitching the pillow case shut.

After washing, the feathers must be rinsed thoroughly. This may be difficult to do if the feathers have been washed loosely by themselves. A wringer washer would be ideal if you own one; otherwise, rinse the feathers several times by hand to make sure the detergent is completely removed.

Before using them in household items, feathers must be thoroughly dry. Spread them out in an attic or an unused room, or hang them to dry in a mesh bag. When the feathers are dry to the touch, tightly secure them in an empty pillow case which has been machine stitched shut and put the case into a clothes dryer using the air fluff cycle. "This will aid in fluffing out the down feathers and ensure that the

add one--washing feathers

feathers are really dry," Johnson says. "Mold may occur if feathers are not completely dry, so allow several extra days for them to dry out before inserting them into pillows or comforters."

Many people are concerned that the washing process will remove the desired oils found in duck and goose feathers, but this shouldn't stop you from cleaning your feathers, Johnson says. "No matter what cleaning process used, in almost all cases some oil substance will be removed," she says. "The final feather product will still maintain the desired resilient and fluffy characteristics."

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Source: Bob Jacobs  
612/373-1166  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

#### NITROGEN RAISES SILAGE PROTEIN VALUE AT LOW COST

A low-cost way to improve the protein value of corn silage is to add a non-protein nitrogen (NPN) source such as urea or cold-flow ammonia. University of Minnesota extension animal scientist Bob Jacobs discussed nitrogen supplementation at Cattle Feeders' Days in December.

"Ruminant micro-organisms do not have a requirement for protein as such," Jacobs explained. "They have a requirement for nitrogen, which can be provided by supplementing the ration at feeding time, or by treating the silage at silo-filling."

Adding the recommended amount of urea--10 lb.--will boost the protein equivalent of a ton of 35 percent dry matter corn silage by four percent. The average protein content of Minnesota-produced silage is eight percent.

"Boosting protein to 12 percent is adequate for 400 lb. calves and more than adequate for 700-800 lb. yearlings," Jacobs says. "The cost with urea at eight cents a pound is 80 cents per ton of silage, compared to \$5.80 for soybean meal."

University of Minnesota trials have shown that steers fed silage with urea supplement needed one pound less feed per pound of gain than steers fed silage with a plain supplement not containing urea (6.71 lb. feed for urea, 7.70 for plain). Average daily gain was 2.37 lb. for cattle on urea supplement and 2.08 lb. for those on the plain supplement.

For cold-flow ammonia, the recommendation is 7-8 lb. per ton. Treating corn silage with 7 lb. of the liquid ammonia at silo-filling will add about five percent protein equivalent. Cost of the material is again about 80 cents per ton of 35 percent dry matter treated silage. Trials have shown feed efficiency of 7.18 lb. of feed per pound of gain and average daily gain of 2.41 lb.

add one--nitrogen raises silage protein value

"It doesn't make any difference in rate of gain or feed efficiency whether we add ammonia or urea to silage at silo-filling, or whether we add a nitrogen supplement at feeding time to silage that is not treated," Jacobs said.

Cattle fed soybean meal supplements have gained slightly faster and have been slightly more feed efficient than those fed NPN supplemented silage. Added minerals, including 5-7 percent calcium, are needed in the NPN rations, Jacobs recommended.

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Source: D. E. Otterby  
(612) 373-1110  
Writer: Sam Brungardt  
(612) 376-8182

#### BUFFER MAKES VERY ACID COLOSTRUM MORE PALATABLE

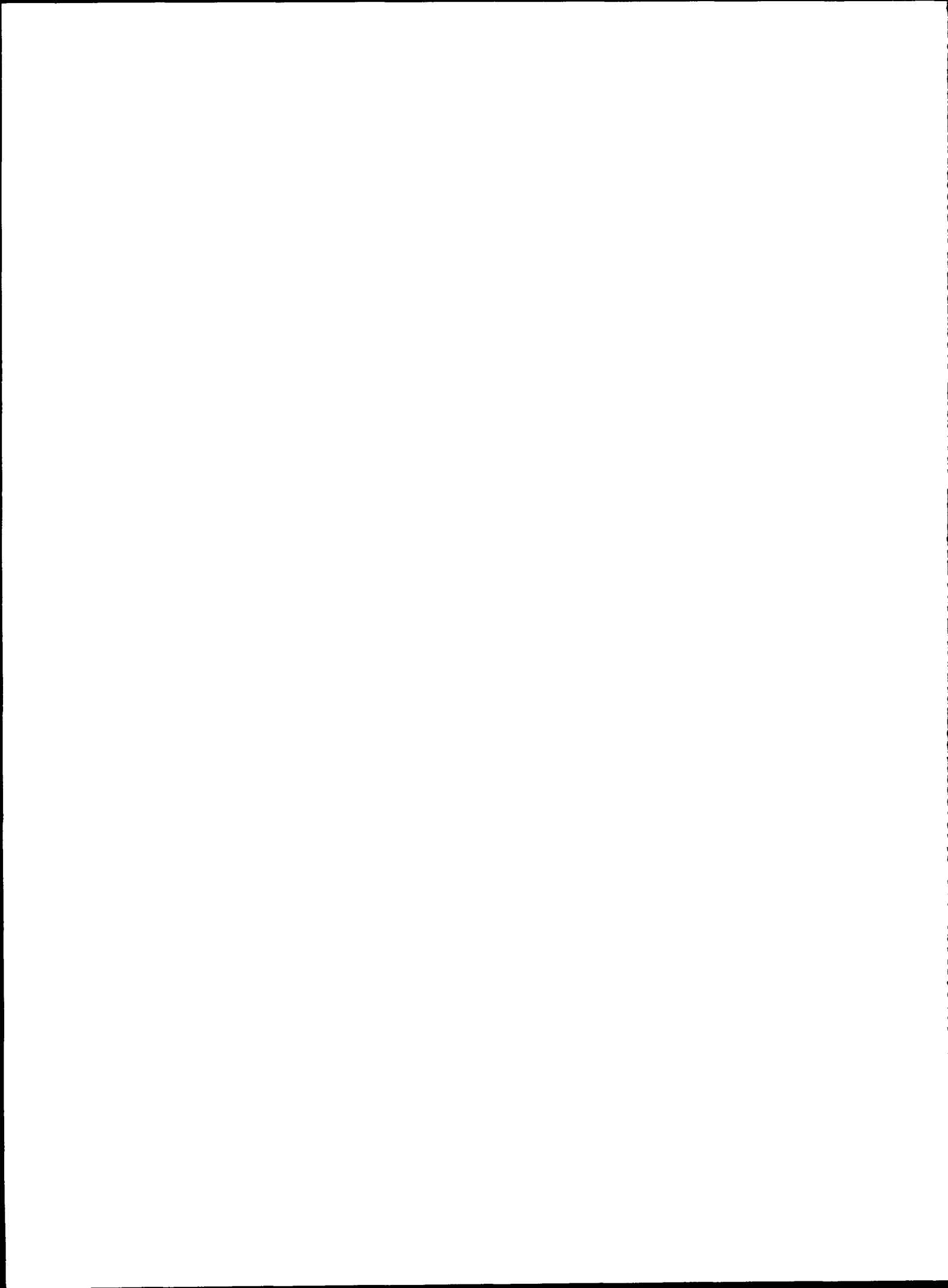
Treating colostrum or other unsaleable milk with chemicals such as propionic acid is generally an effective way of preserving the milk until it can be fed. Calves readily accept this fermented colostrum, which has a pH of 4.6 to 4.7.

However, fermented or acid-treated colostrum sometimes becomes too sour to be palatable to calves, particularly when it is held for a long time during hot weather. That can mean trouble for dairymen trying to get calves off to a good start.

Research at the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station was shown that very acid colostrum--that having a pH of 4.0 or below--can be made more palatable by adding sodium bicarbonate.

In a recent test conducted by animal nutritionist Donald E. Otterby, groups of dairy calves were fed one of four rations: unfermented colostrum; colostrum acidified with propionic acid; colostrum acidified with propionic and lactic acids to pH 3.8 to 4.0; and a fourth ration, the same as the third, except neutralized to about pH 6.0 with sodium bicarbonate.

Each ration was frozen until used. At the daily feeding, the colostrum was mixed with warm water after thawing. Total liquid offered the calves was 8.5 percent of body weight, with actual colostrum comprising 6.0 percent of body weight. The calves were started on their respective diets at four days of age and kept on them for two weeks, when they were switched to whole milk. Water was available at all times and a calf starter was offered free-choice.



add 2--BUFFER MAKES...

Otterby reports that two of the five calves offered the very acid, unbuffered colostrum refused to consume any. They were switched to whole milk or the sodium bicarbonate-treated colostrum, which they readily accepted.

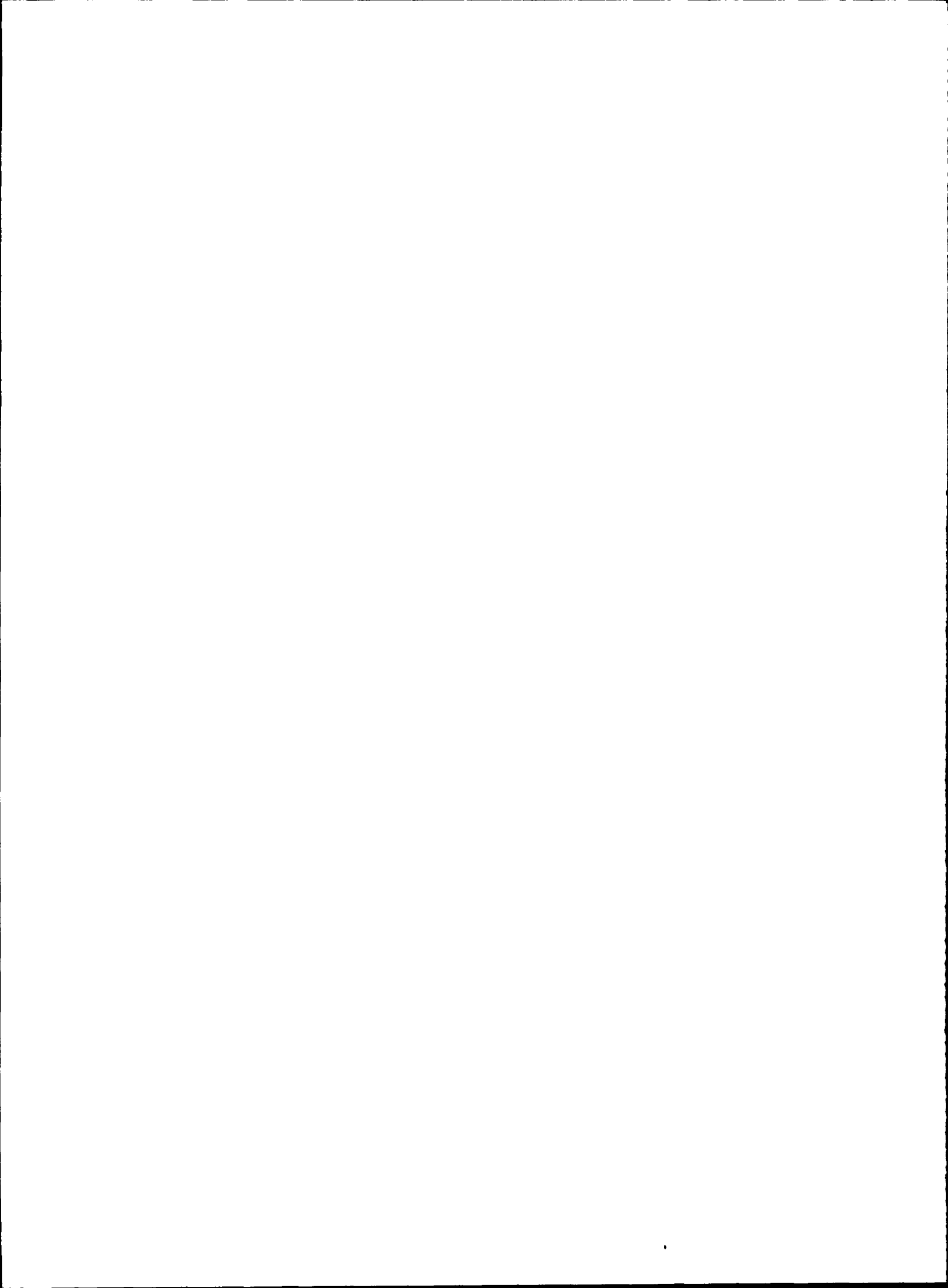
The rest of the calves fed the very acid colostrum refused more than half of the colostrum offered during the first week of the trial, 18 percent during the second week, and still refused some feed during the third week, when whole milk was fed.

Although the calves fed the other diets refused some during the first week, Otterby says the amounts refused were considerably less than in the case of the calves fed the very acid colostrum.

He says the sodium bicarbonate increased the palatability of the very acid colostrum. In the test about 1 ounce of sodium bicarbonate was used per gallon of colostrum.

Otterby adds that the best way of ensuring that fermented or acid-preserved milk does not become too sour to be acceptable to calves is to hold it for no longer than three or four weeks in most situations.

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Source: Dick Meronuck  
612/373-0725

### BLACK MOLD FOUND ON SOME MINNESOTA CORN

A black mold called Cladosporium has been growing on corn in many areas of Minnesota this year. Extensive growth of the fungus damages the kernel.

"This mold is a fungus that starts growing on the corn in the field and may continue growing in crib storage or corn that is not properly dried," says Dick Meronuck, University of Minnesota extension plant pathologist. "It grows at above 23 percent kernel moisture content and can grow slowly at -3°C."

Much of this black fungus is growing superficially on the corn kernel and will be removed in the harvesting, drying and handling process. If conditions allow extensive growth, however, the fungus will invade the seed. This puts kernels in the damage category and will lower grain grade.

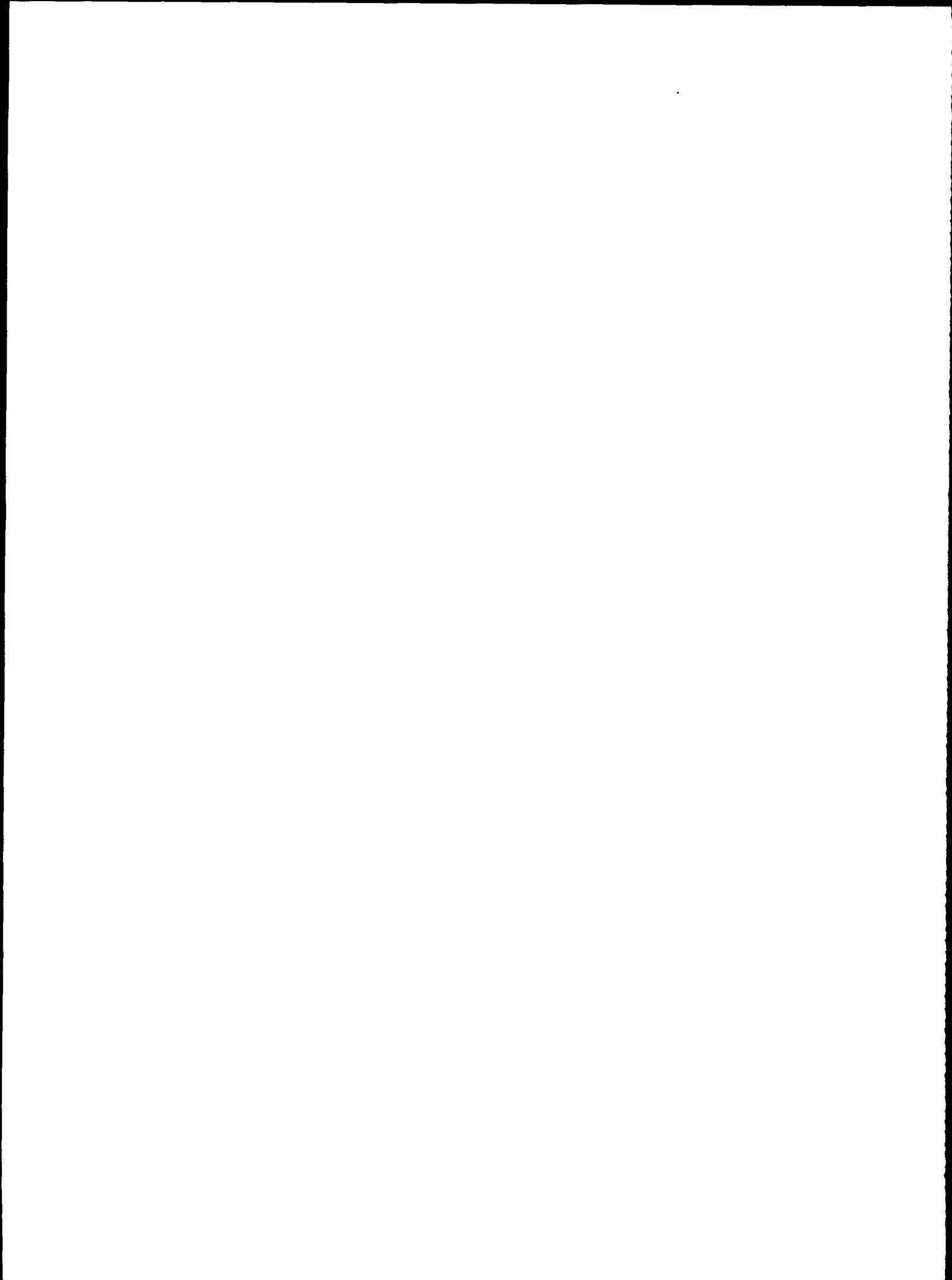
Grain extensively invaded with this fungus should be safe for livestock feed. "There has been one case where illness in beef cattle was associated with a lot of grain invaded with Cladosporium," Meronuck says. "It was not proven, however, that this fungus was causing the toxicity."

Although this black mold does not appear to be toxic, a white-pink fungus (Fusarium) has very similar growth requirements. Grain infested with the white-pink fungus could produce toxicity, especially in breeding animals.

Precautions to take when feeding moldy grain include:

- Feed it to a small number of animals to observe any adverse reaction.
- While feeding be aware of any changes in feed consumption, production or fertility.

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Source: Fred Hoefer  
612/373-0725

### AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM STARTS

The University of Minnesota has established an agricultural exchange program with Australia to enable American students to study that country's agriculture and way of life.

Applications will be reviewed during December and January of each year. Students accepted into the program will arrive in Australia in the latter part of March for a two-day orientation and then live with a host farm family. The program will conclude the following January. The nine-month period will allow participants to experience a complete cycle of crop and animal production.

As time permits during the working period, students will attend field days, seminars, and short courses to further their understanding of Australian agriculture.

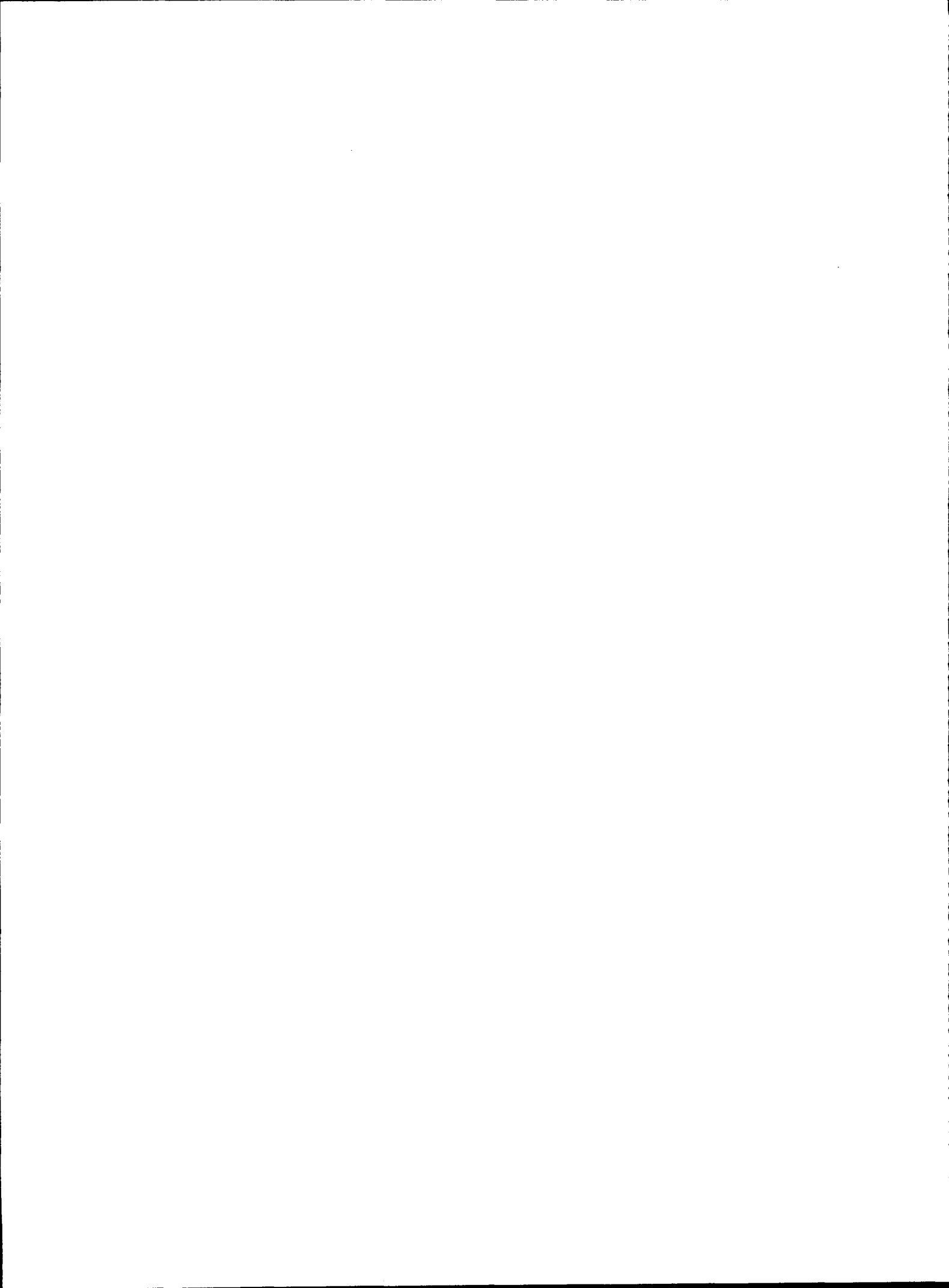
Participants will live and work on a family farm and are expected to become part of the family and the local community. They will have a two-week break period during July, August, or September to tour the country.

Agricultural students taking part in the program will be responsible for all of their own travel costs and will need to obtain personal health and accident insurance to cover medical expenses. Host farmers will pay Workers Compensation insurance to cover the participant for any accidents that may occur while working on the farm. Working students will be paid an allowance of \$75 or more per week plus room and board.

Persons interested in applying should have completed secondary school, have some type of vocational agricultural training, and one year of practical working experience. Applicants should be single and between the ages of 20 and 26.

For additional information and an application form, contact:

Fred D. Hoefer  
Extension Specialist, International Program Development  
Office of Special Programs, University of Minnesota  
405 Coffey Hall, 1420 Eckles Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55108 Phone: (612) 373-0725.



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Source: Ray Arthaud  
612/373-1166

CONTROLLED CATTLE BREEDING  
INFORMATION AT COW-CALF DAYS

A new tool for controlling cattle breeding will be discussed at the 1980 Area Beef Cow-Calf Days in January and February sponsored by the University of Minnesota.

University veterinarians will provide information on the use of prostaglandin in regulating estrus. The new compound could make artificial insemination more practical for many producers. It allows them to synchronize or group estrus in beef heifers and cows. Speakers include Bradley Seguin, Howard Whitmore and J. Reneau.

Over-wintering calves will be discussed by animal science researchers Richard Goodrich and Jay Meiske. They will look at whether or not it pays to over-winter, and how to feed and manage those calves.

Ray Arthaud will review nutrition and management for improved conception, and Bob Jacobs will discuss crop residues for beef cattle. Both speakers are extension animal scientists. Jacobs will also review feeding grain to calves before and after weaning.

Extension veterinarian Dale Haggard will provide information on Minnesota's new preconditioning program for producing certified calves.

Questions and comments will be welcome throughout the program. For more information, contact your Minnesota county extension office. The dates and locations are:

January 22 - Roseau  
January 23 - Crookston  
January 24 - Solway  
January 25 - Grand Rapids  
January 30 - Rochester

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Source: Dottie Goss  
(612) 373-0914

Writer: Cori Scarbnick  
(612) 373-1781

CHECK OUT FOOD  
BUYING PLANS CAREFULLY

Retail food prices in 1979 will be about 11 percent higher than they were in 1978. Projections for 1980 have increases ranging from seven to 11 percent.

Faced with skyrocketing food costs, consumers are seeking ways to ease the burden on the family budget. Are food buying plans the answer?

"Buying a membership in a food buying plan may seem like a way to lock into a fixed dollar amount for food in your budget, but food suppliers of these plans are faced with the same price factors as other sellers of food are," explains Dottie Goss, a family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota. "If they cannot pass on increased costs, they must make other adjustments as prices rise."

Before you buy into a food plan, take time to determine:

--What portion of your present food purchases the plan would replace.

--What is the amount you now spend on these items? Generally, food plans replace only a portion of present expenditures, making cost comparisons difficult without some record keeping.

--If you must purchase a freezer as part of the plan, what will it cost? Could you buy a comparable freezer from a local retailer cheaper? Will owning a freezer reduce your food costs enough to pay for the cost of the freezer and its operation?

--What is the reputation of the company offering the food plan? Local Better Business Bureaus or the Minnesota Office of Consumer Services may have the information you need to make this decision.

-over-

add one--food plans

--What are the specific provisions of the plan, as spelled out in the contract? Does this agree with the salesperson's description of the plan? If you become unhappy with the plan, or become unable to make payments, what are your alternatives?

"Before joining a food plan, look around your own community to find alternatives for reducing food costs," Goss says. "There may be stores carrying lower quality or lower cost generic foods, or minimum service stores where you mark and bag your own groceries. Don't forget about food cooperatives or buying directly from the producer. These are some ways to save on food costs which remain fully in your control."

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## CONSUMER BRIEFS. . .

Direct mail advertising: Believe it or not, most people like receiving what some call "junk" mail. A recent survey by the University of Minnesota found that only seven percent of all Americans consider direct mail ads to be junk. Free samples were the most popular form of direct mail advertising, with catalogs running a close second. Advertising and sales literature ranked third. Charity and sweepstakes coupons were least popular, with 43 percent of those surveyed reporting they don't give to the charity involved.

Junk or gem, 86 percent of the respondents said they open all direct mail advertising they receive. Direct mail coupons were also popular; 73 percent said they use these coupons at least once in a while. In general, direct mail advertising is most popular among younger, lower income and less educated persons, the survey found.

If you're on a direct mail list and want to get off, write to the Direct Mail Marketing Association, 6 East 43rd St., New York, NY 10017. Ask for a name removal form, fill it out and return it to the same address. This should take care of most lists on which your name appears. You can also request your name be added to lists.

\* \* \* \*

Car complaints: According to the Minnesota Office of Consumer Services, complaints about automobile warranties have increased steadily since 1975. For three of the American automobile manufacturers, the rate of complaints per sale also rose, the office reports.

Beyond reporting problems to the Office of Consumer Services, Minnesotans may turn to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) regional office.

-over-

add one--consumer briefs

The NHTSA issues safety and fuel economy standards for new motor vehicles, investigates safety defects and enforces the recall of defective vehicles and equipment. Write to Regional Administrator, NHTSA, Suite 214, Executive Plaza, 1010 Dixie Highway, Chicago Heights, Ill. 60411.

\* \* \* \*

Shopping by mail: The Council of Better Business Bureaus reports the number of consumer complaints concerning mail order businesses in the first half of 1979 was 43 percent higher than the same period in 1978. That increase put mail order complaints at the top of the BBB complaint list, nosing out last year's list leader, auto repairs.

"It seems more people are shopping by mail to conserve expensive gasoline," says Dottie Goss, an extension specialist at the University of Minnesota. "However, inflation and recession have created more mail order businesses, since this is the type of business that often requires little capital and attracts marginal operators. During this phase of our economy, consumers should be especially cautious when buying from mail order operations."

If you have a complaint, write to the company first, Goss says. If this is unsuccessful, write to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in Washington (zip code 20580) or the regional FTC office at Suite 1437, East Monroe St., Chicago, Ill. 60603. Finally, you should contact the local post office to initiate complaint procedures.

\* \* \* \*

Special note to agents: Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist, has put together a short list of free publications which may be useful to you:

--CONCERNS is a newsletter designed to facilitate the exchange of information between consumer educators nationwide, and is published 11 times each year. Write to CONCERNS, 1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 800, Rosslyn, Virginia 22209.

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add two--consumer briefs

--Consumer Training Guide for the Elderly is a collection of lesson plans dealing with specific topics of interest to older Americans such as drugs, health insurance, developing economic shopping habits and safety in the home. Write to the Georgia Office of Consumer Affairs, City Hall, Memorial Drive S.W., Atlanta, GA 30303.

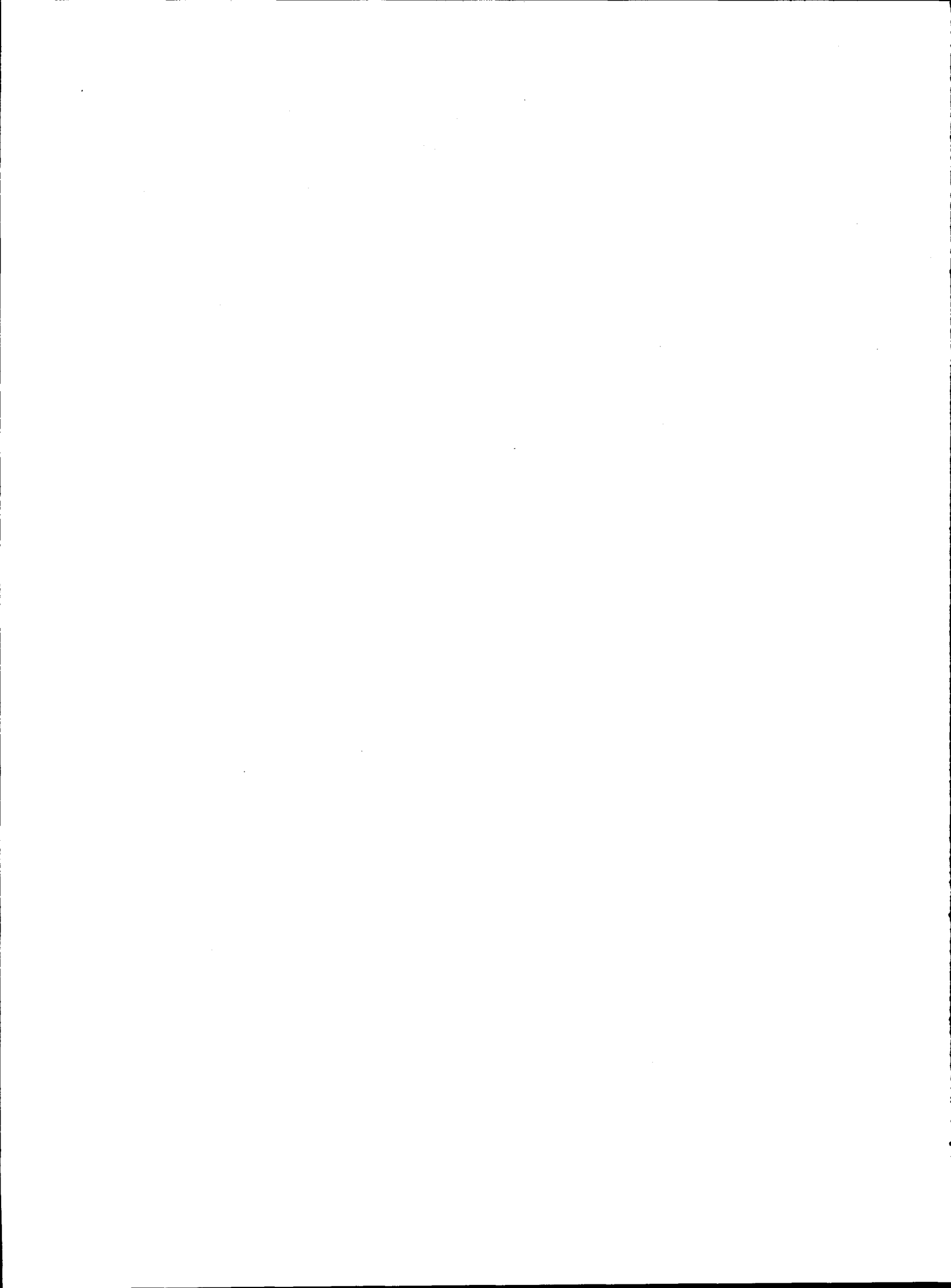
--Consumer's Resource Handbook is an 88-page publication with sections on effective complaint procedure, Federal government-sponsored consumer services and a directory of state and local consumer agencies, including Federal and state office hotlines. Write to Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

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Source: Edna Jordahl, (612) 373-0907  
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#### FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR WOMEN TOPIC OF SEMINAR JAN.10

"It's amazing how little the average person knows about finances," says Marilyn Nichols, founder of the financial planning firm *money matters, inc.* "Most people know they should be doing better, but I think they'd be quite surprised to learn just how much better they could do with a few minor adjustments."

Nichols, a well-known lecturer on financial planning and the author of *The Woman's Guide to Financial Planning*, says that women are vulnerable to changes in the economy for two reasons: they don't have financial expertise and they haven't the earning power that men do.

"We've come a long way, but we still have a long way to do," Nichols says. "We've got less money to work with, so we have to be that much smarter about where our money goes. Dollars don't discriminate against women, but women discriminate against themselves if they don't take advantage of available information and learn what they need to know about money."

Nichols will be the speaker at a one-day seminar entitled, "You and Your Money: A Woman's Guide to Financial Planning," scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 10 at the Earl Brown Continuing Education Center, University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus.

Topics to be covered include developing a spending plan, obtaining credit, protecting your dollars against inflation, knowing when to invest and estate planning. Although discussion will be primarily aimed at women, men are welcome to attend.

-over-

add one--financial planning

The cost of the seminar is \$22, which includes lunch, refreshments and instructional materials. For more information, contact the Office of Special Programs, 405 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn. 55108, (612) 373-0725.

This seminar is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service and the College of Home Economics and is open to all interested persons regardless of race, creed, color, sex, national origin or handicap.

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Source: Larry Peichel  
507/794-7993  
Writer: Kathy Frank Chesney  
612/373-0714

PUBLIC LAND FORUM  
SET IN SLEEPY EYE

Is the public land always for the public good? What does the future hold for public land ownership? These and other questions will be discussed at a public land seminar in Sleepy Eye Jan. 15.

Joe Alexander, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) commissioner, will address DNR's goals and responsibilities regarding public land. University of Minnesota land economist Phil Raup will review the shifts in property rights and land ownership between the public and private sectors.

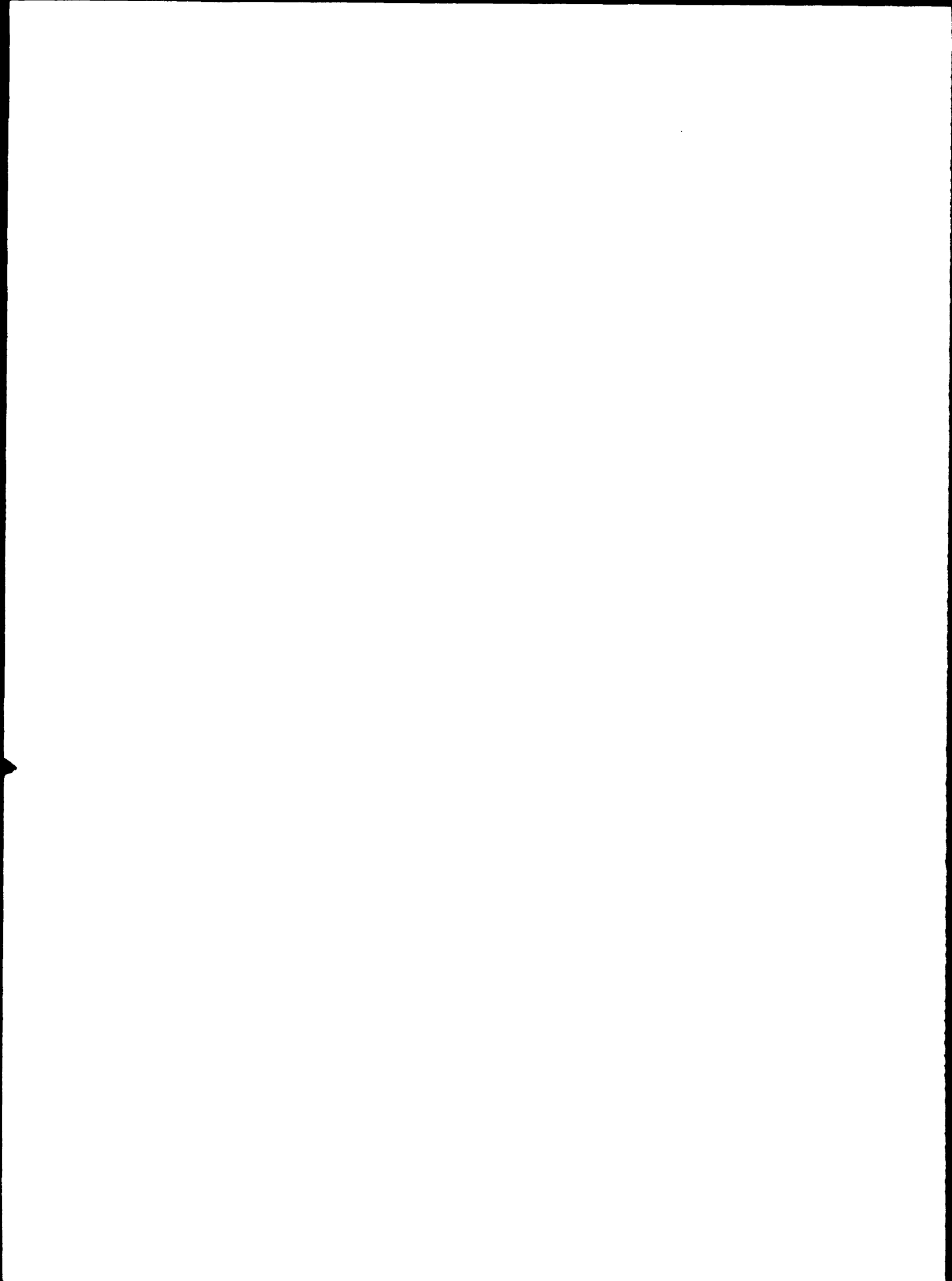
State Rep. Terry Dempsey will look at the legal and tax situation regarding public land, and at foreign investment. Randy Russel, agricultural aide to U.S. Sen. Rudy Boschwitz, plans to cover federal laws and programs. These include mineral rights, eminent domain and the water bank program. He will also share the present mood of Congress regarding future land use legislation.

A panel made up of a township officer, a conservationist, a private landowner and an attorney will give varying views on how public land affects the local community. An hour has been set aside for audience discussion.

"We hope to shed more light on these issues and reduce the heat by holding this informal discussion in a relaxed atmosphere," says Larry Peichel, Brown County extension director. "Our goal is that landusers and public officials will gain a better understanding of each others' land use concerns and responsibilities."

All interested persons are invited to the seminar scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Orchid Inn. The only cost is the noon meal. The seminar is sponsored by the Brown County Extension office with financial support from the Viking Cooperative Center, and county Farm Bureau, National Farmers Organization and Farmers Union groups.

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### HYPOTHERMIA CAN STRIKE AT HOME

Hypothermia--a physical condition marked by an abnormally low body temperature--can only happen in cold, outdoor temperatures, right? Wrong!

If you must stay in a cold house this winter because of a furnace breakdown or a lack of heating fuel, it's imperative you and your family stay as warm as possible. Contrary to popular belief, most cases of hypothermia occur in seemingly mild temperatures when people least expect the danger and are unprepared.

The elderly account for nearly one-half of all hypothermia-related fatalities each year. No one is really sure why the elderly are so vulnerable, but most people experience a general reduction in their resistance to cold as they grow older as well as a reduced ability to withstand prolonged exposure to the cold.

You'll want to be especially concerned if an elderly person in your household is:

--Over the age of 75

--Taking chlorpromazine and other phenothiazines, drugs used in the treatment of anxiety, depression, nervousness or nausea. These drugs can hamper the body's ability to regulate temperature.

--Known to suffer from postural hypertension (low blood pressure due to a sudden change in position), a "slow" thyroid, severe arthritis, Parkinson's disease, coronary thrombosis, atherosclerosis or any condition that blunt's the body's response to cold.

Although there are special low-reading clinical thermometers which detect hypothermia quite readily, you may have to depend on outward signs to determine if someone in your home is a hypothermia victim.

Hypothermia should be suspected if the person's face is pale or bloated or has an odd pink or waxy cast. You may see trembling on only one side of the body, or perhaps in one leg or an arm. You may notice an irregular, slow heartbeat, slurred

add one--hypothermia at home

speech, shallow breathing, or low blood pressure. The person may appear to be disoriented or drowsy or will stumble around when walking. If you strongly suspect hypothermia has set in, contact your family physician immediately; in many hypothermia fatalities, death occurred only 30 to 90 minutes after the first symptoms developed.

While you're waiting for medical treatment, put the person in a warm bed with layers of blankets. If you haven't any extra blankets, use layers of clothing or lie close to the suspected victim to pass on body heat. Hot water bottles or a heating pad might be useful. Put a pillow or a bundle of clothes under the person's feet so that they are higher than the head, which will force blood to flow there. Give the suspected victim warm water or warm milk but never give alcohol, tranquilizers or sleeping pills. If the person's body temperature has stayed above 90 degrees F he or she will most likely be treated in your home. A body temperature under 90 degrees F must be treated as a medical emergency.

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WHAT TO DO  
IF YOUR FURNACE  
GOES OFF

Do you know what to do if your furnace suddenly goes off? Knowing what to do in case of a shut-off could save your life, says William Angell, an extension housing specialist at the University of Minnesota.

"The first thing to check is your fuel gauge," Angell says. "If you have an oil furnace, you might also want to place a long stick into the tank, in case the gauge isn't working properly."

If there's still fuel in your tank, your furnace may not be getting electricity. Most furnaces need this power to run the blower. Check to see if a fuse is blown or if a circuit breaker is tripped. If you can't replace the fuse or fix the circuit breaker yourself, call a friend or relative who can help you.

If you have fuel and electricity, but your furnace still isn't running, get out the instructions for re-starting the furnace. Check the pump which pumps oil to the blower and also check the emergency starter switch, usually red in color. Make sure the switch is in the "on" position.

If all else fails, contact a furnace repairman as soon as possible, Angell advises. "If you cannot afford this service, contact your local Community Action Agency, county welfare office, or a friend or relative who can help you."

It's important to keep an eye on your fuel gauge in severe weather; check the gauge regularly. If you are a renter, keep your landlord informed about your fuel situation. Even if you pay for your own utilities, the landlord may help you since a freeze out can cause expensive damage to the building.

There are other places to turn to if you need help. Try your church, local fire or police department, the Red Cross, Salvation Army, the mayor's office or a community service club.

"It's important not to be too proud to ask for help," Angell says. "Reaching out to others could make the difference between life and death. Remember, you're not the only person facing this kind of problem this winter."

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STAY WARM SAFELY  
DURING A HEAT SHUT-OFF

If your furnace goes off this winter, will you know what to do to stay warm safely?

"If you think you'll be in a cold house for a long time, layers of clothing will help you stay warm," says William Angell, an extension housing specialist at the University of Minnesota. "Newspapers slipped under layers of clothing will help insulate you from the cold."

If you own one, a portable electric heater or an electric blanket can serve as an emergency heating source, Angell says. Use the electric heater in the smallest room of your home and make sure it isn't near cloth or papers which catch fire easily. If you blow a fuse by plugging in the heater, never replace the fuse with one of a larger amperage, which can overload the electrical wiring and cause a fire.

Don't use portable kerosene, gasoline or catalytic heaters which take oxygen out of the air and give off carbon monoxide, a highly poisonous gas. If you absolutely MUST use these kinds of heaters, place them near an open window at least three feet from any walls, to avoid fires. Barbeque grills shouldn't be used to heat your home even in the worst emergency, as they are likely to cause fires and give off toxic fumes.

Your oven should never be used as a heating source if you can help it, but if you absolutely must use it in this way, clean out any grease to avoid fires. If you've an electric stove, never put the top burners on high settings, another fire hazard. If you have a gas oven and you become dizzy or get a headache, get some fresh air quickly!

There are some things you should never do, no matter how serious the situation, Angell stresses. NEVER sleep with the burners or oven operating on either a gas or an electric stove. Ane never use a makeshift wood burner indoors, such as those constructed from garbage cans. If you have a fireplace or a wood stove, never use styrofoam or plastic as fuel, since they give off toxic fumes when burned.

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IF YOUR HEAT  
GOES OFF  
DRESS FOR THE OCCASION

If you must stay in a cold house this winter because of a fuel problem or a furnace break-down, dress for the occasion in warm layers of clothing, extension textiles specialist Sherri Johnson recommends.

Two or three lightweight layers of clothing will keep you warmer than one heavy layer, Johnson says, because the layers trap air around the body. Make sure the layers are loose-fitting, since tight-fitting layers will not trap warm air and could hamper blood circulation.

Thermal underwear is a good choice for the first layer, especially the mesh or wool varieties. Warm even when wet, wool dries from within, wicking moisture away from the skin. Mesh underwear worn under other layers will trap little pockets of insulating dead air while freely breathing away moisture.

Over the long underwear, put on layers of shirts, sweaters and pants. If you're really cold, a large plastic garbage bag with holes cut out around the head and arms will keep warm air around your body. Never use a plastic bag on young children or babies, since the plastic could cause suffocation.

Infants are very vulnerable to the cold, and should be kept as warm as possible. Use warm clothing and layers of blankets but if you haven't any extras on hand, cover the infant with layers of newspaper between blankets or piles of clothing.

Wool socks worn over cotton socks will help keep your feet warm. You could also wrap your feet loosely with newspaper or cloth for extra warmth and enclose them in a small plastic bag.

If you have mittens, they'll keep your hands warmer than gloves. If you don't have mittens or gloves, try using socks to cover your hands.

add one--if heat off dress for the occasion

Even if you're going to rest, make sure your head is always covered with a warm cap or scarf. In a pinch, cover your head with a towel. Most body heat is lost through the head, so a key to staying warm is keeping the head covered.

If you still have electricity and own an electric blanket, use it. Wool blankets, comforters and sleeping bags are also very warm. Remember, two or three lightweight layers are better than a single heavy layer.

Another option is to wrap yourself with newspapers and cloth. Use cloth strips or string to keep the wrappings in place. Never use rubber bands or any binding material to keep the wrappings in place since these could stop blood circulation.

You could also pin or sew two shirts together and stuff the space between the two with newspaper or cloth to create a warm make-shift jacket.

Once you're dressed warmly, stay in one small room of your house. If you own an electric blanket or a portable heater, use them to stay warm. Cover your windows with plastic sheeting, blankets or newspapers to block out drafts.

If it becomes too cold for you to stay in your house, call a friend or relative as soon as possible, or contact your local Community Action Agency for help. If there's an elderly or sick person in you home they'll probably be more comfortable somewhere else while your heat is off.

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Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
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Immediate release

PREVENT PIPES  
FROM FREEZING  
IF YOUR HEAT GOES OFF

If your heat will be off for no more than a couple of days in times of a fuel problem or furnace malfunction, you should take action to keep your pipes from freezing. Should freezing occur, your house could suffer expensive damages, says William Angell, an extension housing specialist at the University of Minnesota.

First, call your city's water department and get permission to run water. Then open all your faucets so they can drip water, which will help to keep the pipes from freezing, Angell says.

You can also wrap the pipes with newspaper or any other insulating material, or place light bulbs near those pipes in spots which are very cold. Be sure that the light bulb is next to the pipe and is not touching any wood, paper or anything else that may catch fire.

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If your heat will be off for a longer period of time than two days, you'll probably have to drain your water pipes so they will not freeze.

If water is supplied by your city, locate your main water supply valve where it enters the house, usually next to the water meter in the basement, and turn the valve completely off. If you do nothing else, make sure to turn off your main water supply valve.

If you have well water, turn off your water pump, either by removing the fuse or turning the switch to the off position. Then open the valve or remove the plug which will drain the water pressure. If your water pump is in the basement, you should also remove the plug that drains the water pump.

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add one--prevent pipes from freezing if heat off

Now turn off your water heater. If your furnace uses hot water radiators, then you must turn off the furnace as well, and drain the radiators.

Electric hot water heaters can be turned off by a switch, by removing a fuse or turning off a circuit breaker. If your heater is run on natural gas, turn off the pilot light and gas. If your hot water heater is run on oil, look for the oil supply pipe; close the valve that supplies oil to the water heater.

Open all your sink, tub and shower faucets to drain out any water remaining within the pipes. A little bit of water should come out at first, but if it keeps flowing, then you've not shut off your water supply valve or well pump all the way.

Now you'll need to drain the water from the pipes. Before doing so, double check that you have your water heater and furnace turned off!

To drain hot water, look for the water valve on the bottom of your water heater and open it. The weight of the water will force it to drain out of the pipes.

To drain cold water from your pipes, look for the water tap or drain valve which may be near the main water supply valve. If you cannot find the cold water tap or the drain valve, open the lowest cold water faucet you can find. Drain the cold water into a pail. Put some water into bottles or plastic jugs for emergency water supply.

Flush all the water out of your toilet tank; since your main water supply valve is turned off, the tank will not refill. Check this by taking off the lid to see if any water remains. To keep the water in the toilet bowl from freezing put about 10 ounces of anti-freeze or a pint of alcohol into the bowl. Table or rock salt will also work. Make sure the lid is down to keep pets from drinking this water. You might add anti-freeze or alcohol to your plumbing traps, too.

Before draining the radiators in your home, you'll need to allow air to get into the pipes. With steam radiators, open the small pressure valve on each unit. A dime will work like a screw driver to open these valves.

add two--prevent pipes from freezing if heat off

With hot water radiators, look for a smaller bleeder valve on each unit. Open the valve with a skate key-type wrench.

Now look for the drain valves on the pipes leading to the radiators, which should be near your furnace. Open and drain these pipes.

"Caution should be taken when your home is ready for reoccupancy," Angell says. "First heat your house to at least 50 degrees F for six hours or until all the water pipes, reservoirs and pumps are warmer than 32 degrees F."

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