

UNIVERSITY FARM PRESS NEWS.

Published Semi-Monthly by the University of Minnesota, Department of Agriculture, Extension Division.

Vol. I.

University Farm, St. Paul, Minn., March 1, 1910.

No. 4.

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Application for entry as second-class matter at the postoffice, St. Paul, Minnesota, pending.

Exchange copies and all correspondence should be addressed to Editor University Farm Press News, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

EXPERIMENT STATION.

TEST YOUR SEED CORN.

The climatic conditions which prevailed during the last weeks, last summer, while the corn crop was ripening, were such that, despite the great size of the crop, it is found difficult to secure seed corn in sufficient quantities, the germinating power of which can be relied upon. Seedsmen and farmers are having the same experience.

It becomes every farmer, then, who expects a fair crop of corn next fall, to exercise unusual care in the testing of his seed. He should not only select the most promising ears, but should test it ear by ear. He will very probably be surprised at the number of ears he will have to reject as non-germinating. He may even find that he cannot, from his own selected ears, get a sufficiency of reliable seed. But there should be no foolish "risking it" in planting without testing. Better undergo a large amount of trouble and save much expense, than invite failure of the crop by planting at a venture. It is dealing with just such emergencies as this that the "new farming" proves its superiority to the old.

TOBACCO IN MINNESOTA.

The Department of Agriculture at University Farm has been experimenting with tobacco for a number of years and has found that it has been successfully raised in various parts of the state. The Division of Agriculture is prepared to co-operate with farmers in other parts of the state in farther experimentation with this crop, and to this end is prepared to furnish seed and instructions relative to its culture, etc. The Division of Agriculture believes that Minnesota climate is adapted to its growth as well as that of Wisconsin. Heretofore the Division has supplied plants for the farmers, but cannot do so this year. It has prepared circulars on the subject giving full instructions for care of seed bed, transplanting, cultivating, etc., which are available for free distribution to all who ask for them. The seed supplied by the Division is of the Connecticut-Havana variety grown in Wisconsin and raised in Sherburn county the past two years. Write at once to the Division of Agriculture, University Farm, St. Paul, for both seed and instructions. They will be forwarded free of cost.

SEED WHEAT FOR AFRICA.

The Experiment Station at St. Anthony Park is in receipt of an order from the Transvaal Department of Agriculture, South Africa, for 50 bushels of "Minnesota Wheat No. 169." No. 169 is the famous Blue Stem variety which has been bred at the Experiment Station and has developed from a single seed in 1890, distributed to farmers in 1902, and now covers more than half a million acres in Minnesota and is very popular in North Dakota and South Dakota.

SEEDS TESTED FREE.

Seeds will be tested free of charge for purity and germination at the Minnesota Experiment Station Exhibit at the Conservation Congress to be held in St. Paul on March 16, 17, 18, 19, inclusive. Farmers are requested to send samples of wheat, oats, corn in bulk, barley, flax, rye, clovers, timothy, vegetable seeds, etc. Send about two ounces of each, and have it at the congress early on the morning of the 16th of March so that the test can be finished by the time of adjournment.

EXPERIMENT STATION AND CONSERVATION.

The Minnesota Experiment Station is preparing to have exhibits from all divisions at the Conservation Congress to be held on March 16th to 19th inclusive, showing the various methods of experimentation, dissemination of information, etc.

CORN FOR NORTHERN MINNESOTA.

The Experiment station at St. Anthony Park has developed a corn suitable for planting in northern Minnesota, known as Minnesota No. 23. Two years experience with it has

shown good results. The Experiment station is offering this corn to northern Minnesota farmers for 50 cents a peck, and limiting the supply to each farmer to a single peck. This method of distribution will hold good while the supply lasts. The variety is a White Cap Yellow Dent, and in the neighborhood of Crookston, Tenstrike, Grand Rapids, Carleton and Wadena last year yielded from 25 to 30 bushels of shelled corn per acre. Write early to the Experiment station, St. Anthony Park, Minn. This corn is not recommended for southern Minnesota.

CO-OPERATION.

The farmers of Reynolds, near Long Prairie, are organizing an egg selling association. Clean, uniform-in-size eggs are selling for five or six cents more than the commonly marketed eggs.

Farmers around Hutchinson are beginning to see the advantages of co-operation and are talking of an egg selling association. Those associations are finding profit in clean eggs of a uniform size by selling to city grocers. Fruit selling is being done at a profit by co-operation. Why not eggs, vegetables, etc?

CO-OPERATIVE EGG SELLING.

Several associations have been organized for selling the produce of the farm. Among these is one for disposing of eggs. One association is at Dassel and another at Barnum. The general idea is to produce larger and better eggs and market them in a systematic way. They would gather the eggs twice a day, keep them clean, sort them, and throw out all under or over-sized eggs and pack them for market in cartons holding one dozen each. The white eggs and brown ones are packed in separate cartons. All unattractive and dirty eggs are discarded so far as the market is concerned. The eggs are shipped direct from the producer to the city grocer or consumer. A guarantee of the facts is set forth on the carton concerning their quality, with a statement that any egg found defective in any way will be replaced free of charge. Such eggs bring several cents a dozen more than those marketed in the ordinary hit or miss manner.

EXTENSION WORK.

EXTENSION BULLETIN NO. 2.

Extension Bulletin No. 2 is now in press and will be available for distribution by March 1st. It contains a list of a large number of books on agricultural and home economics subjects. The books are recommended by the college faculty and librarian as being suited to Minnesota conditions. Prices of books and directions for securing them are given. The Bulletin contains also a list of bulletins published by the United States Department of Agriculture and by the State Experiment Stations, and directions for securing them free. The free bulletins alone make a rather complete and very valuable reference library.

Extension Bulletin No. 2, also other bulletins as published, will be mailed free on request.

AGRICULTURE AT GLENCOE HIGH SCHOOL.

Supt. C. G. Selvig, of the Glencoe High school, with Prof. Schaidt, instructor in agriculture, and Dr. Dorsey, a member of the legislature and of the Glencoe Board of Education, brought a class of 20 boys who have been taking a 4 months' short course in agriculture at the Glencoe high school to the St. Anthony school of agriculture. They stayed one night and part of two days at the school of agriculture, and had the opportunity of seeing the students, in their classes, drilling, and in the dining hall and dormitories. The boys from Glencoe were all from the farm, and it is hoped that some of them at least may come to the state agricultural school to complete their education.

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORK AT GLENCOE.

Supt. Selvig, of the Glencoe high school, expressed himself as well pleased with the agricultural work done at Glencoe under the Putnam act. Supt. Selvig and his agricultural instructor have held a series of meetings in the rural school districts surrounding Glencoe. In this work they have been assisted in two circuits by

men from the Extension Division. A round-up institute will be held at Glencoe under the supervision of the high school as a practical termination of the winter's work in agriculture. Mrs. Blair, Prof. Haecker, F. F. Marshall and Supt. Wilson will represent the agricultural college at this institute.

FARMERS' CLUBS.

The first bulletin issued under the new law covering agricultural extension is now out of press and can be had for the asking absolutely without cost. Write now—write to Division of Agricultural Extension, University Farm, St. Paul, and the bulletin, known as The Minnesota Farmer's Library No. 1, will be sent you by return mail. The bulletin describes the organization and work of Farmers' Clubs.

In a few days the February number will be ready for distribution, and when your name is once on the list each number will be promptly sent as soon as published. Just ask that your name be placed on the list to receive the Farmers' Library. The February number gives a list of available agricultural books and bulletins of special interest to Minnesota farmers and farm home workers.

GERMINATION TESTS.

The vitality of last year's corn is sadly deficient in germinating power. Samples received from different parts of the state at University Farm, show the germ to be black and dead, while the exterior of the ear may look very good. The opinion of the Experiment Station experts is that any farmer who uses such seed may find that his labor is lost. Moral—test your seed. Testing tells the story of germinating power so plainly that none can misunderstand.

No farmer need to plant uncertain seed. The Experiment Station at University Farm will send free of charge full instructions for testing the germinating power of seeds. Write now for instructions. Test your seed before the spring's work begins.

Many germination tests of seeds are being made for farmers at the division of plant pathology and botany of the University Farm. The importance of these tests to the farmer cannot be over stated. The farmer who plants or sows seed testing less than 90 per cent is doing so at a loss.

The testing of seed corn is very important this spring. Not in many years has the question so closely appealed to the farmer as it does now. Last fall's crop was so poor that it is feared much of the corn saved for seed will not germinate. Specimens of corn received at the experiment station which look good superficially, show a dead germ, and the planting of such seed is sure to result in loss.

Every farmer should make a study of the methods of testing the germinating power of his seed, not only this spring but every spring. However, this spring the testing is more necessary than usual, since last years seed is uncertain. University Farm will give any farmer information as to testing with full directions. Any farmer can easily make these tests. There is nothing complicated about it—only a little time and patience. If any farmer is unadvised about this work he may write at once for instructions.

The unfortunately limited facilities of the University Farm dining hall was again brought to the attention of the public a few days ago on the occasion of the visit of the Twin City Market Gardeners and the Glencoe High School short course students.

THE DAIRY DIVISION.

IMPROVEMENT OF DAIRY HERDS.

Every farmer is interested in his herd of dairy cows because of the money the cows bring him. Very few farmers, however, have any knowledge of what their cows are doing. Most of the farmers judge of the quality of their cows from the amount of milk each one gives. If she gives a large mess of milk she is usually "the best cow on the farm," and if a small mess she is not a "very good cow." This is an unscientific way of judging of the individual cow or the herd. To help farmers upon a higher plane of dairying has been a study of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for

several years. Through a long series of experiments the Department has found that the testing of individual cows, weighing their milk and testing it is practical and necessary if one is to breed up his herd intelligently. The Department now recommends the organization of co-operative cow testing associations in any neighborhood where a sufficient number of cows is kept. This is not a hard matter to do. Let fifteen or twenty farmers join together in a neighborly way and sign an agreement to stand by each other for a year, agreeing to pay \$1.00 or a \$1.50 per year per cow for some one who shall make it his duty to appear at each farm once a month for a year, at milking time, see the cows milked, weigh their milk, test it, and make a record of each cow's work and leave it with her owner. In this way a practical man thoroughly acquainted with the work can be employed to give his experience to the dairyman at so low a cost as to make his employment a necessity to every owner of a considerable number of cows. Some may say they can't afford the cost. A few non-paying cows will in a year cost more than the expense of having the herd tested for a similar period. If a cow isn't worth the feed and care she requires the farmer should know it. If she is a paying cow he should know it and breed her to a sire of pronounced qualities and thus build up his herd to a standard of excellence and profit. Good dairy cows are seldom in the market. People as a rule do not sell such cows, or if so they sell at an exorbitant price few farmers can afford to pay. So the really practical and economical way to get a paying herd is to breed up to it from sires of such excellence as to leave no question as to the dairy merit of their offspring, beginning with the best cows in the herd as mothers and discarding those of inferior quality.

The tester can visit one herd one day and then the farmer can take him to the next, and so on until he has gone the rounds of the neighborhood once each month. At the end of the year each farmer will have a record showing a losing or winning game on the part of each cow, besides having been educated in various branches of the industry. A limited number of cow testing associations have been organized in Minnesota and the farmers are pleased with the results. Every neighborhood, where dairy cattle are kept, should get busy this spring and conduct its business from an intelligent standpoint.

The Division of Agricultural Extension, University Farm, St. Paul, will gladly give all assistance possible in the organization of such associations, and assist farmers in procuring practical men in the work of testing and dairying.

VETERINARY.

TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES AMONG HORSES.

One of the interesting lectures before a class of farmers recently at University Farm was by Dr. Lipp, of the veterinary division, on the subject of Transmissible Diseases Among Horses. He divided spavin and kindred bony diseases into two classes. In the first class he placed those that result from injury and in the second those that result from faulty conformation. A sound horse of proper conformation, that receives a kick and then develops a bony disease, would clearly belong to the first class. There would be very little danger of such disease being transmitted to offspring. On the other hand, if by reason of faulty conformation, a horse develops a spavin, when employed at ordinary work, the offspring from such horse would not inherit spavin, but would be predisposed to the disease on account of an inherited faulty conformation. He then applied the same reasoning to various other diseases and showed that the disease itself is not often transmitted, but the weakness is transmitted, which frequently requires but a short time to develop into the disease under favoring conditions. To sum up, the doctor cautioned the farmers against using not only unsound animals for breeding stock, but advised most strongly against using animals of faulty conformation.

In reply to a question Dr. Lipp discussed navel disease at some length. This disease is caused by the entrance of germs into the colt's body through the stump of the navel cord. The germs causing navel disease live in the stable, on the walls, in manure and filth on the floor, and sometimes

on the skin of the dam herself. He advised perfect sanitary conditions about the barn and stalls as the best preventative. He would thoroughly clean the stall in which the mare is to foal, and disinfect it with whitewash to which crude carbolic acid was added. He would cover the floor with clean straw and have the mare, thoroughly washed about the root of the tail as late as possible before foaling, so that her parts may be free from germs, and the possibility of germs entering the navel through contact with the mare would be reduced to the minimum. Then he would bandage the colt's body with antiseptically clean swaths, using also antiseptic cotton as a pad on the navel, on which a five per cent solution of carbolic acid—one ounce of acid to nineteen of water—is used. The bandage is also a support to the young animal's body, preventing undue strain on the abdomen.

CHOLERA.

The hog cholera vaccine laboratory is nearly completed at the Experiment station of the University Farm. As soon as a little plumbing is completed Dr. Reynolds will occupy the apartments and prosecute his experimentation with this fatal hog disease.

FARMERS AT SCHOOL.

FARMERS' SHORT COURSE.

The Farmers' Short Course which has been in session at the University Farm for a month past concluded its studies recently. Their graduation exercises were held in the chapel at the regular morning hour, when President Northrop addressed them and presented their diplomas. President of the Short Course Bengson, replied to the address of Dr. Northrop. The last work of the course was to adopt unanimously the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, we view with pride the splendid equipment and vast extent of our Experiment Farm and Agricultural School buildings, and

WHEREAS, we feel the need of a more active interest of our farming communities, (even at this time of awakening of agricultural development) in this, our School of Agriculture, and

WHEREAS, we desire to recommend to our fellow farmers at home the opportunities that are here given for an acquirement of advantageous and advanced scientific ideas in farm handling on a profitable basis, in this, our Short Course of Agriculture system, and our Correspondence School and Extension system, as well as the college courses in our Collegiate Department,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we extend to our instructors who have at various times appeared before us, our heartfelt thanks for all their conscientious efforts for our advancement, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that we, through our University Farm Press News, and the press of the state in general, extend an earnest invitation to our fellow farmers at home, and their sons and daughters to avail themselves of the Short Course in Agriculture, the School of Agriculture, and the advantages of our our Experiment Station in their every day farm life, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we look forward to a still greater agricultural development in this, the great state of Minnesota, and the great Northwest.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Twin City Market Gardeners held their annual convention at University Farm the other day and listened to lectures by several of the college professors on subjects of insects, diseases and kindred matters affecting the growing of garden products. Many of the gardeners were accompanied by their wives.

Dean Woods of the Agricultural Department of the University is advocating an electric line between the college of agriculture and the university, with power to be supplied by the electric plants of the two institutions. He regards the present loss of time in going from one institution to the other as great waste. Since the two have so much interchange of business the loss of time to both students and instructors is so great as to retard the development of the fullest possibilities at each place.