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Winning Circulation for a Country Paper.

A Hint to Editors.

The Wadena News affords an interesting example of the success which comes to a country paper when its editor has the wisdom to yoke his enterprise to the vital interests of the community, make those interests his own, and devote to them the major portion of his space. When Mr. C. S. Barns took charge of that paper, on the first of June last, its circulation was insignificant; its advertising was so. It was losing money with every issue. He at once adopted the policy of making it the exponent of an advanced Agriculture and a higher Country Life. He has regularly reduced in its columns practically all articles appearing in the University Farm Press News, and in the place of "plate matter" prepared by the Extension Division for the American Press Association. He has also taken an active part in the organization of Farmers' Clubs, and made his paper their mouthpiece. Under this stimulus, such clubs have multiplied rapidly; and naturally each club has become an auxiliary in boosting the circulation of the Wadena News. The Extension Division has gladly co-operated in making these clubs useful and attractive. As a result, in three months the paper has been practically put on a paying basis; its circulation and advertising patronage have more than doubled and are rapidly increasing; and it bids fair to become an example of prosperity in rightly conducted country journalism.

Extension Division Suggestions.

Save seed corn early.

Fall plowing is injurious to cutworms and grasshoppers.

If possible, disk stubblefields, to conserve moisture and destroy weeds.

Fall plowing exposes the soil to the elements which aid in liberating plant food.

Select early a plenty of seed-corn, so that further and more rigid selection may be made next spring.

If your teacher attempts to teach agriculture in your school, encourage him and the pupils by your approval and help.

From May 15th to September 1st there are 110 days. Varieties of corn that will mature in that time are safe in Minnesota.

Fall plowing will make a much more compact seed-bed than will spring plowing, and crops grown thereon will be less subject to injury from drought.

Fall plowing is recommended for corn; and, if manure is to be applied, it may be put on as a top-dressing, at the rate of from 6 to 12 tons per acre, and disked in.

A Farmers' Club is worth money to a community of farmers. Start something of the kind in your neighborhood. For suggestions, send for Extension Bulletin No. 1, which is free.

If you have fifteen or more head of cattle, and haven't a silo, it will pay you to look into the subject of silos carefully; and if you do, you will probably decide that you need a silo.

A good acreage of corn, which means plenty of feed; and a good inch of cattle, which means plenty of fertilizer for the land, together mean good crops and reasonable farm profits.

The fly comes to you as the herald of unsanitary conditions existing somewhere near. These conditions, other than the fly himself, are to be eradicated. Not every fly is a "typhoid fly." If he were, typhoid would be a violently epidemic in every city. But sometime, when his gentler warnings have been too long unheeded, we may suddenly discover that he has laid some one of our household on a bed of fever, by inoculating our food with germs from some deposit of filth too long neglected. So, while we vigorously "swat" the fly whenever and wherever he appears, let us still more vigorously search out and eradicate every source of filth to which the fly may have access. Lacking filth in which to breed, the fly will perish from the earth, with no more "swatting" from us.—C. R. Barns.

Select Your Seed-Wheat Now.

The first thought of the successful farmer, who has just put in his granary, say, a thousand bushels of golden wheat, is likely to be, "Now it is ready for market!" accompanied by some natural jubilation over the prospect of again getting a good price. But really the thought which should come first is, "Now is the time to select the seed for next year's crop."

If some particular spot in his grainfield has yielded choicer wheat than the rest, he will naturally have put this aside for seed, as the first step in the process of selection. But if no such spot has developed, or if its product has been mixed with the general crop, it should be borne in mind that from a thousand bushels it will be far easier to select—by the use of the fanning-mill—the quantity of large, heavy kernels, desired for next spring's planting and for sale to one's neighbors, than from a smaller lot. If you sell the bulk of your crop, and then resort to the fanning-mill to select your seed, you will almost inevitably find that so great a proportion of the largest, heaviest kernels have passed from your hands, that you will have to keep for seed a quantity of smaller ones, to the detriment of next year's crop.

Of course the labor involved, in selecting the best grains from a large volume of wheat, is considerable; but it is nothing near so great as that involved in cultivating the larger number of acres necessary to obtain from small and light kernels as good a crop as will follow the sowing of large and heavy ones exclusively.—C. R. Barns, Extension Div., Minn. Col. of Agriculture.

Do It Now.

Minnesota is making a record as a corn-growing state, and if the coming year is to bear any comparison to this year, our corn-growers must now bestir themselves and gather the seed for next year's planting. Forego the State Fair if you must; neglect your politics if you like; but make the saving of seed-corn the all-important consideration of the month. It is not a big job, and because of this many farmers are apt to neglect it; but it is a consideration which has a direct and important bearing upon next year's corn crop; and is one that no wise corn-grower can overlook.

With a sack slung from the shoulder, get out into the best portion of this year's crop and get busy. Look first for those ears that are already quite well matured. Frost may come earlier next year, and it is well to be ahead of it if you can. The ear should be well-developed in every way, true to the type and variety you are looking for, and come from a non-suckering, thrifty stalk.

Good seed-corn is desirable property any year, and when it is being gathered it is an excellent plan to gather several times the amount that will be needed for next year's planting. Cure it by hanging in a nice, dry place, where there is a good, free circulation of air.

A day spent in timely field-selection is worth a week of selection at husking-time, and even more of crib-selection next spring. Do it now, while the impulse of "Seed Corn Week" is with you. It is a business proposition not to be neglected.—O. M. Olson, Ex. Div. Minn. College of Agriculture.

Rye for Early Spring Pasture.

In the spring of the year, nearly every farmer is confronted with a shortage of feed for his live stock. Rye offers one of the best means of providing early spring pasture, especially for hogs and sheep. Few farmers can afford to operate their places without at least from one to five acres of winter rye, to furnish pasture for their stock early in the spring. Rye will not only furnish good pasture, but will do much to help eradicate weeds. It also offers an opportunity for growing another forage crop, like fodder corn or millet, on the same field later in the season.

Rye for spring pasture should be sown during the early part of September, and in no case later than the first of October. In order to live through the winter, it must get a good start before cold weather sets in. The land should be plowed deep, and well prepared before the crop is sown. A good seed-bed is essential, as this crop may suffer for want of moisture and from a severe winter. A good start in the fall will do much to put it through the winter in good shape.

The rye for pasture should be sown at the rate of about two bushels per acre, with a grain-drill, and harrowed several times after the grain is sown.

In the spring, as soon as warm weather sets in, the rye will make rapid growth, and when from six to eight inches high, it will be ready for the hogs or sheep. Minnesota farmers have not made as good use of the rye crop for pasture as they should. If

you have not already planned to sow a field of rye, give it a trial this year, and reap the benefit of this crop as early pasture on your farm.—W. H. Tomhave, Ex. Div. Minn. Col. of Agriculture.

Grading and Packing Apples.

The State of Iowa will hold several Apple-Packing Schools in the southwestern part of that state this fall. The work will be under the direction of the Extension Horticulturist of Iowa, and several assistants from the State College at Ames. Western methods of grading and packing will be taught.

Is the time not at hand when Minnesota can do as much for the growers of this state? Our fruit-producing areas in the southeastern part of the state and in the Minnetonka region are sections to be reckoned with. Reports indicate that between 20,000 and 30,000 barrels of apples will be shipped out of the "Tonka district" this year. Fillmore County promises to do even better than it did in 1909—78 carloads!

Such amounts of fruit certainly require the best of handling, grading and packing, if the grower is to realize largely from its sale. The Extension Horticulturist at University Farm believes that it is up to Minnesota growers to better their methods of harvesting, packing and marketing, and he would be pleased to correspond with growers who would be interested in schools and demonstrations, along those lines, in their respective communities this fall. Address K. A. Kirkpatrick, Minn. University Farm, stating the size of orchard, probable amount that will be produced, varieties, and the number of growers that could probably be reached by such a school in your community.—K. A. K.

According to State Entomologist Washburn, moles as a rule are beneficial to the farmer, because they feed almost entirely upon the larvae of insects, grubs, etc., which they find in the ground. The injuries to garden plants, often laid at their door, may usually be traced to mice which use the runways of the mole. It is only when they work in flower-beds, lawns, cold-frames and hotbeds that moles cause serious annoyance. From the latter structures they can easily be excluded by the use of one-half inch mesh galvanized wire cloth.

If your hoe is "as sharp as a knife," you will accomplish a great deal more with it than if it is permitted to remain "as dull as a hoe." The suggestion is made that a flat file for sharpening the hoe should be a regular part of the gardener's equipment. If the "Man with a Hoe," in the famous picture, had habitually carried a file, probably he wouldn't have looked so stolidly dull himself.

"Soil Tillage."

This is the title of Extension Bulletin No. 20, just issued from Minnesota University Farm. Written by O. M. Olson, it embodies, in a concise form, the results of a great deal of experimentation and observation on Minnesota soils. It is issued at this moment on account of the desirability of impressing upon farmers generally the importance of fall plowing—and thorough cultivation—as a means of putting the ground in the best condition for the preparation of the seed-bed in the spring, as well as for the eradication of weeds and the destruction of insect pests.

It is especially urged that fall plowing should this year be deeper than has been customary in most parts of the state. Plowing to the depth of six or seven inches, as compared with the customary four or five inches, will not only afford more room for the development of the root system of whatever crops may be sown, but it will greatly increase the capacity of the ground for storing up and retaining moisture, against the necessities of what may be another dry season. Of course, however, the depth of the plowing should be adjusted to the nature of the soil. The light soil of the "jack-pine" farm cannot be deeply plowed. Light soils have this advantage, however: they may be plowed much sooner after a rain, and without the liability of making it lumpy or cloddy, as occurs in the case of heavy soils, especially those which are clayey in texture.

Deep-plowing in the fall permits of the settling and compacting of the soil before the coming of the spring; when the seed bed should be finished with disk and harrow. The more cultivation that can be given before planting, the less will be the amount required after the crop is sown.

Cultivation after planting is for the triple purpose of keeping down weeds, loosening the soil for the admission of air and warmth to the roots, and creating an earth-mulch which will prevent the abstraction of moisture from the soil by evaporation. "Earth-mulch," by the way, is the proper

term—not "dust-mulch." There is such a thing as making this mulch too fine, and thereby giving the Wind-Spirit an opportunity for mischief.

Too much attention cannot be given to the study, by each farmer, of the methods of tillage best adapted to his own particular patch of soil—especially in Minnesota, where the variations in depth and ingredients, even in the same neighborhood, are so numerous. Bulletin No. 20 will afford some timely suggestions.—C. R. Barns, Ex. Div., Minn. Col. of Agriculture.

Agriculture for Rural Schools.

The State Department of Public Instruction and the Agricultural Extension Division are co-operating in a systematic effort for the introduction of Agriculture into the rural schools this year. The plan is to send a special leaflet called "Rural School Agriculture," to every rural school-teacher in the state. This leaflet will be sent out monthly from the Extension Division, and will contain a few simple, timely, and practical exercises which can be carried out in the rural schools. The idea is to interest the boys and girls, each month, in those things which are being done on the farm and in the home during that month. The experiments are to be conducted at home, and the reports brought to school for discussion. Carried out in this way, Agriculture need take but little time in the school. Most of the work is easily correlated with the regular branches of school work. A few minutes each day, for important questions and sharp, enthusiastic discussion of reports and experiments, is sufficient time for the general agricultural work.

The greatest handicap upon the introduction of Agriculture into our rural schools is the lack of properly-trained teachers. "Rural School Agriculture" is so prepared that a teacher with no agricultural training, but with plenty of enthusiasm, should have no difficulty in handling the work. The rural school is not the place to teach "Scientific Agriculture." One of the commonest mistakes made by teachers is to try to teach too much. It is not how many facts the child learns, but how interested he becomes, that counts. Spirit and enthusiasm, connected with a few well-known and practical agricultural facts, make the teacher's best equipment for introducing Agriculture into the rural schools.—J. B. Lamson, Extension Division.

Corn and Frost.

The problem in corn-growing in Minnesota is to select varieties of corn that can be matured between frosts. From May 15th to September 1st, inclusive, there are 110 days. For the northern half of Minnesota, it is unsafe to plan on a longer season than this; and, in the extreme north, 100 days is the limit of safety. It often happens, however, in favorable years, that there are from 120 to 140 days in which to mature a crop, and this usually results in difficulty, as the tendency always is to select the largest ears of corn, and one usually feels safe in selecting any corn that he has grown on his own farm. This practice, however, should be avoided, and the effort should always be to select corn, for seed, that has matured not later than the date of the expected first frost. This will mean, in northern Minnesota, to select corn very early in September. In the south part of the state, where 120 days can be counted on, the selection of seed corn may be deferred until the middle of September.

The selection of varieties of corn that are unsafe almost universally results in discouragement. A crop failure, or a crop of soft corn, is very likely to dampen one's ardor for the corn crop; while early-maturing varieties, adapted to this state, are capable of yielding from 40 to 75 bushels per acre; which makes corn the cheapest possible feed that can be produced in Minnesota.—A. D. Wilson, Extension Division, Minn. Col. of Agriculture.

Good Plowing.

There are few occupations where good work shows as much as on the farm. Plowing is the first operation in the production of all common farm crops; and if not well done it is hardly logical to expect good results, even though the other operations are well-performed. Good plowing means completely loosening, stirring and pulverizing the soil to the desired depth. Simply making the ground black by plowing a shallow furrow, and turning it over on a narrow strip that is unplowed, can hardly be called good plowing. The proper depth of plowing will depend greatly on the character of the soil, but it is a safe proposition to state that, as a rule, it would pay to plow Minnesota soils deeper than they are now plowed. In many heavier soils, there is little opportunity for root growth, or the liberation of plant growth beneath the furrow-slice, owing to the density of the soil. Deeper plowing would certainly increase the

depth of the available soil, make the soil capable of holding more moisture, aerate it more completely, cause the liberation of more plant food, and certainly greatly increase the productive power of the farm, without the necessity of buying additional tracts. It is always pleasing to see straight, uniform, well-turned furrows, with all vegetation turned completely over. It is pleasing not only to passers-by, but to the man doing the work.—A. D. Wilson, Extension Division, Minn. Col. of Agriculture.

Bundle Corn.

One of the cheap farm feeds is bundle corn. Minnesota has more corn than ever before. There is in some sections a shortage of roughage, hence a larger proportion of the corn stover will be needed than is usually saved. If corn is cut and husked from the bundle, a large amount of labor is required, more than is necessary to pick the corn from the standing stalks in the field. But by cutting the corn and feeding from the bundle, no more labor is required than to pick it, and the larger part of the labor can be performed by horse power.

An acre of corn, yielding 40 bushels, will have 2,800 pounds of ear-corn. It will have about 3,000 pounds of stover. It will cost approximately \$10 per acre to grow, harvest and haul to the barn such a crop. This will mean a cost of 25 cents per bushel, with the stalks attached. A very liberal feeding for a fattening steer would be one peck of corn per day, or 17 pounds. In connection with this 17 pounds of ear-corn, there would be approximately 20 pounds of stover. This would make a liberal day's feed, at a cost of six or seven cents.

There is probably no way by which the same amount of feed can be produced and saved more cheaply than in bundle corn. If a small amount of good clover or alfalfa hay can be fed in conjunction with bundle corn, it is a very desirable feed for most kinds of stock kept on our farms.—A. D. Wilson, Extension Division, Minn. Col. of Agriculture.

Fresh Eggs.

The quality which is most desirable in milk and cream for immediate consumption is sweetness. In eggs, the corresponding quality is freshness. Most producers have come to realize that dairy products must be marketed daily, and under the most favorable circumstances, to command the highest market price. The same practice should obtain in the marketing of eggs.

There is a closer parallel between the quality of sweetness in milk, and freshness in eggs, than is commonly supposed. It may be truthfully said that, under the same conditions, eggs will keep fresh no longer than milk will keep sweet.

A better term from freshness would be newly-laidness. The term "fresh eggs" is commonly applied to "current receipts" which may be from one week to one month old. A new-laid egg must be under one week old, and must have been kept in a cool, dry place, under 60 degrees F., and free from odors of all kinds to retain its freshness. If properly cooked within this time, the albumen or white is milky, flaky, and what is termed "clotty," and the yolk sound, firm and rich. Such eggs, from healthy hens, are wholesome food, and have a distinctive flavor and aroma very pleasing to the taste.

If exposed to heat, dampness and odors, this quality soon disappears, and the egg becomes stale, insipid and unwholesome.

Chick development, and bacterial changes, often render eggs unfit for human food within forty-eight hours; and such come under the ban of the Pure Food Laws.

It is very important, then, that eggs should be marketed daily, to preserve quality and wholesomeness. Not only so, but the annual loss through detrimental changes in market eggs would be saved. This loss is 17 per cent of the value in the hands of producers; and the price is fixed to cover this loss.

It is conservatively estimated that Minnesota produced 100 million dozens of eggs during 1910, on farms and village lots, and that 60 million of these were put upon the market. How long they were kept in the country stores, how long they were in the possession of the commission men and retailer, who can tell?

Thousands of farmers market their milk and cream daily; and an appeal is made to them to market the eggs produced daily also. This is the most important factor in the state-wide Poultry Propaganda: the daily marketing of fresh eggs.

Let producers, merchants, shippers, railroads, commission men and retailers, handle fresh eggs as they do sweet milk and cream. Keep them moving, from nest to table. Then all may have the privilege of eating really fresh and wholesome eggs.—N. E. Chapman, Extension Div. Minn. Col. of Agriculture.