

UNIVERSITY FARM PRESS NEWS

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

VOL. X

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., AUGUST 15, 1919

NO. 16

Entered as Second class matter January 15, 1910, at the postoffice at St. Paul, Minn., under the Act of July 16, 1891.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 29, 1918.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

August 15 to 22

Radishes and lettuce sown now will come nicely for fall use.

Lawn clippings dried in the sun and stored make fine winter green feed for chickens.

Order tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths for spring flowering. They may be planted the last of September or first of October with good results.

Tip the branches of blackcap raspberries to the ground and throw a little earth over them. These tips soon root, growing good young plants for setting out next year.

Peony seed for planting must be picked as soon as it is brown. If allowed to dry it will take much longer to germinate if it will germinate at all. As soon as picked, put in sand or soil until time to plant—this prevents its drying.

Thin out the currant bushes now if it has not been done—cut out the oldest wood and thin some new growth so each branch has a chance to develop. This often increases the size of the fruit remaining.

It takes about five years to produce an orchard from seed. During the first two years extreme care must be used to keep them alive and growing.

Water gladioli freely when they begin to flower. Cut the flower stalks as soon as two or three flowers are out. They will open in the house. Removing the flower from the plant gives the bulb a better chance to develop.

Do not try to see how many flowers may be packed into a vase, but rather how few. Often one flower makes as attractive a vase as a dozen.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

August 22 to 29

Pick the apples carefully without bruising if you want them to keep well.

Leaves of endive should be tied up about the plant if white, tender growth is wanted.

Plant peonies during September. Festiva Maxima, Mons Jules Eli, Felix Crousse, Baroness Schroeder, and Carl Rosenfeld are good varieties.

Chrysanthemums, geraniums and other garden flowers may be taken up and put in pots for winter growing in the house.

High bush cranberry fruit can be made into a fine jelly. Try a few quarts of fruit for that purpose.

It is just as important to keep the garden free from weeds and insects now as earlier in the season.

Head lettuce must be given plenty of room to develop in. It thrives best in cool moist weather.

Do not allow manure to come in contact with freshly set peonies or iris roots. It as a rule means disease and decay.

Give the dahlias plenty of water as soon as they begin to bloom.

Iris may be transplanted now to advantage. Cut back the tops about one-half. Set now they should be well established before winter sets in.

Clean well graded fruit will always bring a good price. In a year of plenty, it will sell at a better price and quicker than will mixed lots.

Drain tile set over each celery plant blanches it nicely. Paper or boards may be used in cool weather, but either is apt to decay the plants in warm weather.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

HENS DO SHARE TO DEVELOP STUMP FARM

The ability of the hen as a "grub-staker" is being demonstrated in Skelton township, Carlton county, Minn., where the gross receipts from a flock of 190 pullets and 30 old hens as breeders amounted to \$1,051.47 from Nov. 1, 1917, to Nov. 1, 1918. The flock is owned by Mrs. L. J. Beck. Mrs. Beck in a report to N. E. Chapman, poultry specialist of the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota, says that her expenses for feed in the interim mentioned were \$503.70, leaving a balance of \$547.71, or an average of \$45.64 a month for care, interest on investment and other items that "farm management" would include.

Mrs. Beck found a keen demand for hatching eggs from her standard breed stock and this led her to increase her flock of breeders until at present she has 200 from which she has cleared \$464.15 in six months or \$77.35 a month. All feed for her chickens must be purchased except some cabbage and rutabagas that are raised on the place.

CANDLING OF EGGS MADE OBLIGATORY

"The new regulation adopted by the state board of agriculture for the candling of all eggs before marketing or shipping is a good thing," says N. E. Chapman, extension poultry specialist of the Minnesota agricultural college. "There are, too, other good and sufficient reasons for the grading and candling of eggs by producers. The practice if systematically followed—

"Establishes a definite basis for trading by eliminating guess work.

"Permits of a just compensation to the careful producers of good eggs.

"Shows who is responsible for the bad eggs and who wastes food.

"Leads to a general improvement in quality.

"Saves freight charges, transportation space and case material by eliminating the handling of worthless products."

ANTHRACNOSE INVADES MANY BERRY PATCHES

"This is the season," says R. S. Mackintosh, horticulturist of the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota, "when all canes that have fruited should be disposed of in order to make room for new shoots to mature properly and to prevent anthracnose. Canes that fruit once will never fruit again, and anthracnose of cane fruit cuts down the yield."

Anthracnose is showing up worse in some patches this year than was the case last year. Control measures should be started right away to have the patch free from the disease next summer. One remedy suggested is to take out all the old canes and burn them. In addition, it will be desirable to spray at this time with Bordeaux mixture in the strength of about 3-3-50. This will tend towards stopping the spread of the disease among the new canes. Later, after the leaves have fallen, it will be found desirable to spray with a fairly strong solution of lime sulphur.

PREPARING SEEDS FOR SHOW PURPOSES

Uniformity of seed as to size, form and color and the selection of relatively large, plump berries are the first requisites of samples of seeds which are to be used for exhibition purposes at fairs and elsewhere, says C. P. Bull, associate agronomist and secretary of the Minnesota Crop Improvement association.

Rains and heavy dews discolor the grains and injure their general appearance. "To avoid this," he says, "haul several bundles under shelter or stack the grain. If stored in a building, the grain should be set up loosely to avoid mold or heating. The seed should be cleaned with the best facilities available—grader, fanning mill or by throwing it along the barn floor in such a manner that the heavy seeds will fall farther away than the lighter ones and can be easily separated.

"After cleaning, the appearance of the grain can be bettered by putting a half bushel of it in a sack and trampling upon it or turning it from one end of the sack to the other. Avoid too severe working of oats, the hulls of which should not be broken so as to expose the kernel. Seek the color, physical condition and general appearance that will mean the best grade for the respective grains. Freedom from mustiness or unnatural odors and from evidences of rust, smut and scab are essential to high quality. Broken seeds, dust, dirt and admixtures of other grains and varieties are objectionable."

POULTRY POINTS INCREASE INCOME

The United States department of agriculture, cooperating with the Minnesota agricultural college, has issued a poster in the cause of increasing food production. "Make Every Egg Count" is the keynote. Poultrymen and farmers are informed that their eggs will be worth more money if they will—

Produce INFERTILE eggs by removing the roosters from the flock in the summer time.

Provide clean nests and keep eggs clean.

Gather the eggs twice daily during the summer, to prevent them from being heated by the hen.

Keep them in a cool dry place away from the flies.

Market them at least twice each week.

Insist that they be bought on a quality basis.

Producers are admonished not to wash eggs.

STRINGY MILK; HOW IT CAN BE PREVENTED

"Stringy milk can be prevented when old utensils, especially the strainer cloth, are boiled," says C. H. Eckles, chief of the dairy division of the University Farm. "If a tank of cold water is used for cooling," he adds, "it should be emptied and scrubbed with boiling water. If this treatment does not eliminate the trouble, the fresh milk should be heated on the stove to a temperature of 150 degrees, then left standing 20 minutes at this temperature and cooled as quickly as possible."

Stringy milk is not caused by the feed or any abnormal condition of the cow, but by bacteria which enter the milk after it has been drawn from the cow. Milk affected in this way is not unhealthful but it is certainly not appetizing.

MARKETING POULTRY TO BEST ADVANTAGE

August is here, and the live poultry car is "abroad in the land." This is an invitation to the farmers to market their poultry. Present prices are good, ranging from twenty to twenty-five cents a pound. The question is "What shall be sold?" The answer to this question, given by N. E. Chapman, poultry specialist of the extension division, University Farm, is this:

All roosters, unless of special worth as breeders. They will not increase in weight, it will cost at least fifteen cents a month to feed them, and there will be considerable loss from fertile eggs.

Hens of the heavier breeds which have reached an age when they will no longer pay for feed and care. By handling them, one can tell whether they are in god flesh.

Ducks, over ten weeks of age, not to be kept for breeders.

Young guineas, weighing a pound or over to take the place of prairie chickens and other birds now protected by law.

Cockerels of the egg breeds, as broilers, when weighing from a pound and a quarter to two pounds. The choicest ones, meeting standard requirements, should be kept as breeders.

Do not sell yearling hens, that should be kept as layers and breeders, or spring pullets, or cockerels of the layer breeds that should be allowed to grow and develop on range, until nearer standard weight.

POTATO MEN WARNED OF THE LATE BLIGHT

The late blight of potatoes has appeared in an adjoining state. The damp weather favors its development in Minnesota, says G. R. Bisby, of the Minnesota experiment station. Growers even in the northern part of the state should be on the lookout for it.

The disease is first found on the potato leaves as spots which appear water-soaked in damp weather, with a mold growth on the lower side. In dry weather the spots are brownish. Later the stems also rot, and the potato tubers are usually affected, and rot seriously.

Bordeaux mixture effectively controls the disease, especially if used before the disease gets a foothold. The 5-5-50 formula is recommended. Put the 5 pounds of bluestone in a sack and hang it near the top of 25 gallons of water in a wooden barrel. Slake 5 pounds of lime slowly, then add enough water to make 25 gallons. Pour these two solutions together, through a strainer into the sprayer and apply at once. Stock solutions may also be employed.

"Bordeaux mixture is an 'insurance' that ordinarily pays for itself in increased yield even when late blight does not appear," says Mr. Bisby, who further advises growers to consult their county agents or to write to the Plant Disease Department, University Farm, for further information.

HIGHER PRICES PAID FOR TESTED COWS

E. O. Hanson, superintendent of official cow-testing in Minnesota, strongly advises Minnesota dairymen to give their cows an official record in order that the animals may have a chance of proving officially just what they are capable of doing. Mr. Hanson says, "The expense of establishing these official records is a mere item compared to the commercial value to be gained. Highly producing animals are never lost sight of, as their records are officially reported and appear in generations to come, which determines to a great extent the value of the offspring. Cows are often sold at very moderate prices, whereas, if given an official record, their owners would realize much greater profits."

WHEN TO CUT CORN FOR FILLING SILOS

Corn cut when the grains have reached the glazed stage contain almost twice as much digestible matter as corn cut at tassel time; corn cut at glazing time, therefore, is best for silage.

These statements, says Andrew Boss, vice director of the Minnesota Experiment station, are based on analyses made by chemists of the Dominion of Canada at Ottawa, which show that the corn from an average acre cut at the glazing period contains 7,308 pounds of digestible matter as against 4,220 pounds when the corn is cut at tassel time.

"Samples of corn were analyzed," says Mr. Boss, "that had been taken at all stages from tassel to silking, early milk and late milk, and glazing. These analyses show strongly in favor of allowing the corn to reach that stage of maturity when the kernels are well dented or glazed before it is cut. At that time the lower leaves are usually beginning to turn yellow. The figures show that while there is a larger amount of green corn on the acre when the corn is in the tassel stage, the total amount of dry matter is not nearly so great then as when the corn has glazed.

"The dry matter per ton amounts to 285 pounds at the tassel stage, 323 at the silking stage, 389 in the early milk, 444 at the late milk, and 523 pounds at the glazing stage.

"If there is any danger of frost, corn should be cut early rather than allowed to wait for the maximum pounds of dry matter."

WOULD PUT HONEY ON DAILY FOOD LIST

The 20,000 persons engaged in bee-keeping in Minnesota are being urged by L. V. France, secretary of the Minnesota Bee-Keepers' association, to use their efforts to educate food consumers as to the use of honey products as a staple food the entire year and not only as a seasonable delicacy or an occasional luxury.

Mr. France says that \$15,000,000 worth of flower nectar is going to waste every year and that bee-keeping could easily be made twenty times more remunerative than at present without fear of overstocking the state with bees.

This appeal is made in the advance premium list of the bee culture department of the Minnesota state fair, which foreshadows an unusually attractive exhibit at the fair from August 30 to September 1.

STATE IS AIDING IN CONTROL OF PLAGUE

Minnesota is still further aiding the bureau of animal industry of the United States department of agriculture to prevent the spread of tuberculosis among cattle through interstate shipments. Dr. C. E. Cotton, of the Minnesota State Livestock Sanitary Board, has forwarded to Washington, at the request of the bureau, a list of graduate veterinarians competent to make the physical examinations and tuberculin tests of cattle such as are now required before cattle may be shipped from one state to another. On the basis of this list most of the qualified veterinarians of Minnesota have received permits to make tests for interstate shipments.

The regulations governing the tests are specific and must be carried out by every veterinarian if shipments are not to be held up. Dr. C. P. Fitch, head of the veterinary division at University Farm, says it behooves every one to be very careful that the regulations governing interstate shipments of cattle are carefully and completely fulfilled. If they are, it is hoped that the spread of tuberculosis will be greatly diminished, if not brought completely under control.

AIDS IN FIGHTING LIVESTOCK DISEASES

University Farm has just received from the United States department of agriculture a copy of farmers' bulletin No. 1018, dealing with stockyards fever, swine plague and fowl cholera, which are all forms of hemorrhagic septicemia, a livestock disease of very high mortality, attacking cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry.

The bulletin says that no form of treatment has time to become effective for any animals that are already affected, but that apparently healthy animals may be saved in part by separating them from those which are diseased by placing them in clean and uninfected quarters, where they may have the best of feed and water.

Treatment with vaccines, which may be purchased from most American drug stores, has been effective in many instances in checking the spread of an outbreak.

Copies of the bulletin may be had by addressing Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

TO INSURE NEXT YEAR'S CORN CROP

Dear Mr. Editor:

Following this note is material for a local story. This is based on plans for a seed corn campaign to be carried on September 10 to 20. If this campaign is carried out in every county Minnesota will go far toward assuring its corn crop for the next year. This means prosperity for the farmer and for all. Put the figures for your county in the blank spaces and you will have the basis for a good local story.

Very sincerely yours,

W. P. KIRKWOOD,

Editor.

* * * *

In a seed corn campaign in which the county farm bureaus of Minnesota are to cooperate with the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota in observing Seed Corn Time, September 10 to 20, Minnesota's farmers will obtain 500,000 bushels of seed corn as a means of insuring the seeding of corn for the next year.

This means one bushel of seed corn for every six acres to be planted to corn.

According to the plans of this campaign, county's quota of seed corn to be selected during Seed Corn Time, September 10 to 20, is..... bushels. This county has an average corn acreage of.....acres, and the amount of seed corn mentioned is enough to seed this acreage for next spring. The selection of this amount of seed corn will insure farmers against a repetition of such a seed corn shortage as occurred in the spring of 1918.

Every farmer will be called on to select one bushel of seed corn for every six acres he puts into corn, and he will be urged also to select a liberal margin over this amount to give a chance for reselection in the spring after testing this corn for germination before planting.

* * * *

Table with 3 columns: County, Estimated acreage, Bushels of seed required. Lists counties from Aitkin to Yellow Medicine with corresponding acreage and seed requirements.

SPECIAL BULLETIN NO. 28 REPRINTED

On account of the serious nature of the disease there has been a large demand for Special Bulletin No. 28, entitled, "The Contagious Abortion of Cattle," prepared by C. P. Fitch and W. L. Boyd of the division of Veterinary Medicine at the Minnesota college of agriculture. To meet this call, a second edition of the bulletin has been issued, copies of which can be obtained by addressing the office of publications, University Farm.