

UNIVERSITY FARM PRESS NEWS

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

VOL. X

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., SEPTEMBER 1, 1919

NO. 17

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

September 1 to 8

Cut gladioli flowers when the lower buds first begin to open.

Elderberry fruits are used in pies and sometimes in making sauce or syrups.

High bush cranberry fruit makes fine jelly and with the high prices being paid for fruits this year should find a ready market.

Send for bulbs for fall planting. Tulips do well planted outdoors. Daffodils, hyacinths and narcissus varieties are fine for spring flowers in the house. Plant in pots this month.

Are weeds cut along the road way and fences? Every weed left to go to seed means from one to hundreds more next year. Besides they do not look well.

New lawns may be seeded now if the soil is moist and in good condition. It is well to add a little rye to the grass mixture. This will help to hold snow over winter.

Black currants sold for twenty-five or thirty cents a quart in July. Red currants and gooseberries were nearly as high and yet there are thousands of farms in this state that do not have a bush of either. Why?

Fifty cents a quart for raspberries the latter part of July ought to encourage more people to grow red raspberries, especially since they are one of the easiest fruits to grow either by the acre or on the city lot.

Bids are being asked by the government on vegetable and flower seeds to be distributed by congressmen. A few of the items are as follows: sweet peas 5,000 lbs., zinnia seed 500 lbs., candytuft 1,000 lbs., nasturtium 2,000 lbs., beets 70,000 lbs., lettuce 60,000 lbs., and radish 75,000 lbs. All of these are standard seeds easily obtained from any seedsman. Why should congressmen send them to you or me?—LeRoy Cady, Associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

September 8 to 15

Table grapes and grape juice ought to be more common now that wine can not be manufactured.

Farmers' bulletin 1039 on commercial comb honey production is worth sending for—write to the Division of Publications, Washington, D. C.

Either spray and prune the orchard or use the ax. Trees uncared for are like abused underfed stock—unprofitable. Get rid of them.

Popcorn harvested as soon as ripe and hung on strings in a dry airy place will be ready for use early in winter.

Everbearing strawberries are becoming most common as spring bearing varieties. Progressive does well on most soils and fruits until the ground freezes.

Mark a fruiting vine of the wild grape for transplanting late this fall or early spring. Fruiting vines are more ornamental than those that do not carry fruit.

It is a good plan to clean up the garden and spade or plow it this fall. Many cutworms and other insects are disturbed by fall plowing.

Cut out all old canes of raspberries and thin the new ones now. Thorough cultivation about the plants will reduce the insects that are apt to work on the plants.

Peonies and iris may be transplanted now. Divide the old plants and set about two inches deep. There are few plants that will give as much pleasure as these two for the amount of work put on them.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

SLACKER LAYERS CAN BE KEPT ON JOB

Hens that would otherwise quit laying early can be kept on the job with a 50 per cent egg production until October 1, or until the early pullets begin to lay, by careful culling of the flock and the feeding of a balanced ration. With eggs at present prices, 50 per cent production means "good money," says N. E. Chapman, poultry specialist of the extension division, University Farm. Early moulters will cut down the percentage of production, and if these are old birds and fat they should be marketed. The remainder of the flock will have more room and feed. A dry mash, composed of a bushel of corn and two bushels of oats, finely ground, to which is added equal amounts by weight of bran and shorts, makes an ideal egg food. This may be fed dry in a hopper or mixed in a crumbly mash with milk and fed at noon. If an abundance of skim milk is not available for drink and to make the mash, beef scraps or other animal food should be supplied. Grit, oyster shells and charcoal should be added in abundance.

SEED CORN TIME SEPTEMBER 10 TO 20

Is Your Community Selecting Seed Corn?

If It Isn't, It's Prosperity is in Danger

BLANKET THRESHING TEST REDUCES WASTE

Because of so much light grain this fall there is likely to be excessive waste in threshing, especially if the thresherman is careless or neglectful. Frequent use of the blanket test is suggested by L. B. Bassett of University Farm, as it will show both thresherman and farmer just what kind of work is being done.

For this test, says Mr. Bassett, use a blanket not smaller than 18 feet square, or, if a blanket can not be had, a wagon box may be substituted. While the test is being made, care should be taken that the machine is operated in the usual way. No unusual adjustments should be made and the bundle pitchers should maintain their ordinary pace. The blanket is spread out to one side of the strawpile and the operator stands on top of the separator watching the tallybox. As soon as the tallybox is tripped, the blower is turned on the blanket. All of the straw is gathered on the blanket during the time that 2 1/2 bushels of grain are threshed, or while the tallybox is tripping five times. As soon as the fifth dump is made the blower is turned away from the blanket.

The next operation is to separate the straw and chaff from the wheat. This is done with a fork, shaking the straw carefully and taking care that no wheat is thrown aside. After the straw is all shaken out the chaff may be separated from the wheat by means of a fanning mill, or it can be winnowed by hand.

Some grain will always be found in the straw. One pint of grain indicates a waste of .6 of 1 per cent, which is considered very good threshing. When the grain is in good condition the machine ought to save more than this, but counting early morning and late evening threshing when the dew is on the shocks, or in threshing wet bundles, the average waste will probably be higher. Any waste over one-half of 1 per cent in grain that is in good threshing condition should be regarded as poor threshing.

DISKING GOOD FOR ALFALFA; SAYS ARNY

Alfalfa should be cultivated with the disk or spring tooth harrow early in the spring and after each cutting, says A. C. Arny, assistant agronomist at the Minnesota State Agricultural college. This is virtually the only way Kentucky blue grass can be kept out, he says. It also stimulates the growth of the plant. Neither the disk nor the spring tooth harrow, unless set very deep, will injure alfalfa. Fall plowing and manuring, followed by thorough and frequent cultivation to kill weeds, conserve moisture, warm up the soil and provide a firm seed bed, is good practice.

FARM EMPLOYMENT FOR WINTER MONTHS

"Have you enough livestock to feed and have you feed enough provided to care well for the livestock which you have?"

These are questions, which in the opinion of Andrew Boss, of the division of agronomy and farm management of the Minnesota Farm School, every farmer should consider carefully between now and the first of October.

Mr. Boss contends that productive employment for labor that will bring in a cash return to the farmer should be provided on every farm during the winter.

"The value of livestock as an income producing enterprise cannot be overestimated," he says. "One reason why dairy farmers are so universally well-to-do is because they employ their labor through the winter as well as through the summer at productive work. The income from the cows is steady and sure.

"Not everyone, of course, cares to milk cows or is so situated that he can do so. Then let him look about for some other farm product that will employ his labor and bring in cash returns. The keeping of hogs and beef cattle is a productive enterprise on a great many farms. Where labor is limited one man perhaps can accomplish more at this form of occupation than he can in trying to run a dairy. On most farms the productive winter work will usually be found associated with livestock of some kind. A combination of either dairy or beef cattle with hogs and poultry is a hard proposition to beat

1919 GRAIN GOOD FOR SEED IN 1920

The small grain crop in Minnesota is going to be considerably below the average this year. Scab, black rust, smut, blight, hot winds, and, in some sections, grasshoppers, have combined to lower the yield and injure the quality. The fact that the seed used last spring was of exceptionally good quality seems to have counted but little in the results. Good tillage has helped in some instances, but rich land has not helped. The crop is as bad on rich land as on poor land. In some cases it is worse. Not in years has there been such universally shrunken wheat, light chaffy oats, and light weight discolored barley as this year.

Will such grain do for seed? This is a question that confronts every person who contemplates sowing grain next year. The answer in general is yes, if it is well cared for and will germinate. Most farmers are growing varieties that are reasonably well adapted. It is unwise to import unknown varieties even though the quality of the grain is much better. Careful selections made from the home grown grains will nine times out of ten give the best crops.

Save the seed wheat from the best piece on the farm. Be sure to select it from the piece that is the least scabby. Thresh it separately and bin it by itself. No matter if the wheat was rusted it may be used if it weighs 52 pounds a bushel or more and germinates well. There is no insurance against rust, but it helps some to remember that it seldom is bad two years in succession. Clean thoroughly before using, save only the heaviest for seed, and treat with formaldehyde before sowing.

Seed oats and barley should also be selected from the best home grown grain. Thorough cleaning and treating with formaldehyde also will pay with these grains even though they are grown only for feed crops. Make the best of what is at hand. It probably will give better crops next year on most farms than imported seeds would give.—Andrew Boss, vice director of agricultural experiment station, University of Minnesota.

CANNING CALLS FOR BEST RUBBER RINGS

The home economics staff of the extension division of the Minnesota College of Agriculture warns housewives that only new, good rubber rings should be selected for canning purposes. All the rings should be tested for elasticity and they should not break easily and should return to shape. When doubled between the fingers, the rubber should not crack or even show little holes, and when placed on the jar the ring should fit closely. Two "don'ts" are submitted by the staff—Don't select rings by color, but rather by test, and don't use the same rubber twice.

DANGER SEEN IN MIXING OF SEEDS

C. P. Bull, seed specialist of the Minnesota experiment station and secretary of the Minnesota Crop Improvement association, warns against the danger of mixing winter wheat and winter rye. The seeds are inseparable and when mixed to any extent are not of much value for planting purposes. The sale of winter wheat for milling is also affected unfavorably, as a mixture of rye will reduce the flour quality.

"Cleaning the seeder or drill as well as the bags, bins, wagon racks and separator before starting with the one or other grain will prevent much trouble later on," says Mr. Bull. "Rye should not be sown on winter wheat ground, and winter wheat should not be planted where rye has just been grown."

Farmers who have good clean fields of Turkey or other winter wheat or the Minnesota No. 2 rye should let it be known through the Minnesota Crop Improvement association or by advertising. The secretary of the association foresees a brisk demand.

when it comes to earning farm income. Aside from giving profits directly from the labor employed, the cattle, through the manufacture of rough feed into meat products and the return of large amounts of barnyard manure, are doing a good turn in keeping up the fertility of the soil."

HOGGING OFF CORN PROVES ITS CASE

The opinion once held by a majority of farmers, that the practice of "hogging down corn" was a wasteful method of harvesting a crop, has been reversed in the light of experience. The plan has been followed at experiment stations and on many farms for a long time and has proved to be highly successful and economical.

An acre of good corn, says W. H. Peters, professor of animal husbandry at the Minnesota University Farm, will carry from five to eight pigs through the hogging down season. Records show that even an acre of rather poor corn will produce pork worth from \$35 to \$50 when the corn is harvested by this method. Reports even of \$100 to \$150 worth of pork produced per acre are not uncommon. Advantages of this system of feeding which stand out prominently are:

Saves labor of feeding the pigs in the old way and of harvesting the corn.

Makes appreciable saving of time for the farmer in a busy season.

Hogs will harvest the corn more efficiently than it can be husked by man or any type of harvesting machine.

The greatest possible percentage of the crop is left on the land to take the place of fertilizer as no part of the crop is removed except what the hogs take away in the form of pork.

Cornfields harvested by hogs are left in excellent condition to be plowed for another crop. The type of hogs best adapted to harvesting corn, says Mr. Peters, is the early farrowed spring pig that should weigh from 115 to 135 pounds by September 1st. Pigs of this weight will be ready for market by the time the corn harvesting period expires. They should and usually do gain more than a pound per head each day while harvesting corn.

If soy beans or rape are planted in the corn, the pigs will have a well balanced ration before them all the time. If the fields are bare aside from the corn, the feeding of a nitrogenous supplement such as linseed oil meal or tankage placed in a self-feeder will prove profitable.

PICKLING SYRUPS; HOW TO MAKE THEM

At the height of the pickling season the general method of preparing material is outlined by Mildred Weigley, chief of the division of home economics of the state agricultural college. Recipes for syrups for pickling are recommended by Miss Weigley as follows:

SWEET PICKLE SYRUP—4 cups of sugar, 2 cups of vinegar. This syrup can be used for sweet cucumber pickles or pickled fruits.

SOUP PICKLE SYRUP—2 quarts vinegar, 1 tablespoon salt, 1 cup sugar, one and one-half tablespoons each of mustard seed and celery seed and one tablespoon of cinnamon may be added to make a spicy syrup.

SPICED VINEGAR FOR FRUIT—2 cups of vinegar, 4 cups brown sugar, 4 tablespoons mixed spices.

MUSTARD PICKLE SYRUP—2 quarts of vinegar and water if too strong, 4 cups brown sugar, 1/2 cup salt, 2 cups mustard, 1/2 cup flower, 1 teaspoon tumeric powder.

Some fruits and vegetables may be cooked directly in the syrups or brine, says Miss Weigley; with others better results are secured by soaking in salt water over night, or by parboiling in salt water. The object of the soaking or parboiling is to make it possible for the fruit or vegetable to absorb the vinegar or syrup better. Full details as to methods of pickling can be obtained by addressing the chief of the division of home economics, Minnesota Farm School.

PLUM PITS WANTED BY NURSERYMEN

There is a marked shortage this year in the supply of native plum pits used by nurserymen. Persons having native plums should save all the pits, says R. S. Mackintosh, horticulturist of the agricultural extension division, University of Minnesota. Pits must not be injured by boiling or otherwise, but should be taken from the fresh fruit and dried. Information relative to markets will be furnished by Mr. Mackintosh on request.

SEED CORN DRIVES ANALYZED BY BOSS

Minnesota owes its prestige as a corn state largely to the advance made in the selection of seed corn.

"Fifty years ago," says Andrew Boss, vice director of the Minnesota experiment station, "only a little corn was grown in Minnesota. The most of that was of flint varieties. Corn was considered a very precarious crop. Seed could not be obtained here, but was brought in from Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio and other states from which the farmers had immigrated.

"Flint corns and a few early dents were brought from the New England states and gradually became adapted to the soil and climate. Continued selection of the earliest kinds of dent has developed several varieties that are pretty sure to ripen even in a short season. In this way the corn belt has been extended from the southeastern corner of the state to the northwestern corner. Entering corn breeders are constantly aiming to develop hardy and quick-growing varieties that yield well, and an improvement in quality and in yielding ability is clearly evident."

Summarizing developments to which seed corn selection has contributed in large degree, Mr. Boss finds that:

More corn is now grown in the farthest northwest county of the state, Kittson, than was grown fifty years ago in the southeastermost county of the state, Houston.

Not only has the corn belt moved northward clear across the state, but corn with deeper kernels, more rows and better yielding habits have been developed.

There has been a steady increase in livestock raising which has made farming more profitable.

The fertility of worn out soils has been restored and employment given to the farmer's labor.

"The result is a much more remunerative farm," continues Mr. Boss. "The corn crop also has improved the quality of the farm because it is the one cultivated crop which can be adapted to a large acreage successfully. The cultivation of the land gives the opportunity of cleaning it from weeds and of putting it in condition for excellent crops of grain. Through its use as a feed crop for livestock, corn is one of the leading crops in making farming on high priced land profitable.

"Time devoted to the adaptation of a variety of corn to local environments is almost sure to result in larger yields of better corn and greater profits from farming. The corn grower who understands the habits of the plant can work wonders in developing varieties suited to his conditions."

***** EDITOR'S CORNER *****
* INTERESTING FACTS *
* FROM STORE SURVEY *
* A survey of 113 country stores *
* in ten Minnesota towns has been *
* made under the auspices of the Uni- *
* versity of Minnesota's general ex- *
* tension division. From a mass of *
* interesting information gathered the *
* following data and conclusions stand *
* out: *
* Thirty-four per cent of the mer- *
* chants do no advertising. *
* Average amount of money spent *
* by those advertising one-half of 1 *
* per cent on total sales. *
* Hostile feeling shown by the mer- *
* chants in six of the ten towns *
* against the local newspaper; editors *
* seem to reciprocate. *
* Not one of the stores visited had *
* an advertising plan. *
* Sixty per cent have improvised *
* mailing lists. *
* Forty per cent of the merchants *
* have virtually no system of books. *
* Mail order houses supplying 15 *
* per cent of the total purchases of *
* merchandise in the ten towns. *
* Constructive work necessary if *
* country retailing is to be improved. *
* Help from the outside if the *
* country store is to keep up with the *
* development of the farms in its *
* community. *
* *****

WINTER RYE YIELDS ON FARM COMPARED

Great interest has been shown by rye growers of Minnesota in the Rosen variety put out by the Michigan Agricultural college. A very carefully conducted test of rye varieties at University Farm this year gave the following results: Swedish Minnesota No. 2, 27.6 bushels; Wisconsin Pedigree, 26.9 bushels, and Rosen, 25.1 bushels per acre, respectively. "It is recognized that this is the result of one year's test and may not be conclusive," says A. C. Arny, in charge of farm crops, at University Farm, "but there seems to be no reason to think Rosen rye is any higher yielding than the other two varieties mentioned. In quality of grain the Swedish was the more corneous or flinty, which is desirable."

