

UNIVERSITY FARM PRESS NEWS

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

VOL. XI

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., APRIL 15, 1920

NO. 8

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.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Upon the rural press of America rests the fate of civilization.—Arthur James Balfour.

Steenson's New Bill

Congressman Halvor Steenson has introduced a bill which prohibits the use of the mails for the circulation of medical advertising that contains false statement or representation in regard to medicine or the treatment of venereal diseases. The bill applies not only to newspapers, but to circulars and letters.

Power of Repetition

Successful advertisers are those who keep everlastingly at it. They understand the value of repetition and never let up. An advertising authority says: "A thing that is said once seems but an accident, a thing that is repeated often enough slides into its place in the order of nature."

Good Chance for a Hustler

Another newspaper—this one in a town of 1,000 in the richest and most prosperous part of southern Minnesota—is offered for sale. The plant comprises a typesetting machine and other equipment to match.

Laborer Worthy of Hire

Beginning April 1, the publishers of the Waseca Herald advanced rates for display advertising to 25 cents an inch, with 10 per cent extra for special position. "This is an advance," the publishers say, "of only 25 per cent in four years, while nearly all things that enter into the making of a newspaper have advanced from 100 to 400 per cent."

Alexandria Papers Merge

The Alexandria Citizen and the Alexandria Post-News have consolidated. The Citizen editors, J. A. Kinney and son, will publish the combined paper, while E. E. McCrea and A. L. Mallory, veterans of the profession, will retire.

Merchants Catching On

A dry goods company at Ellsworth, Wis., has faith in the returns that can be secured from a liberal use of printers' ink. In a recent issue of a home paper it was represented with a two-page "ad". This prompts the Stillwater Gazette to say: "There is no doubt of the growing sentiment among merchants of the value of advertising in the home papers. There is no other method by which so many people can be reached at such low cost."

Labor Jinx Banished

William E. McKenzie, president of the Crookston Times Printing Company, believes he has solved the labor problem. He has worked out a partnership plan, he says, that has proved a winner. All hands share in the partnership, costs of production have been cut and the volume of business has been increased. Asking the question, "Is the plan workable in other lines of industry that employ labor," Mr. McKenzie replies, "I'll say it is."

THREE SPRAYINGS NEEDED FOR APPLES

Proper pruning and spraying are necessary for the production of good apples. Trees should be sprayed, says R. S. Mackintosh, horticulturist with the extension division of the Minnesota college of agriculture, when the buds show pink, and, second, as soon as the petals fall. A third spraying should be given the trees two or three weeks after the second one.

"Lime sulphur and arsenate of lead," says Mr. Mackintosh, "continue to be the most useful spraying materials. Pruning removes surplus branches and leaves those remaining in better condition to produce apples."

Mr. Mackintosh says the Iowa Fruit Growers association of Ames, a co-operative organization, is doing good work in supplying members with spray material at reasonable rates. Fruit growers of Minnesota desiring to order supplies through this organization are free to do so. The membership fee is \$1 and all members are furnished with price lists from which they can make their selections.

Minneapolis Journal To Share Host Honors At Editors' Course

The Minneapolis Journal is going to share the honors as host at the annual short course for editors to be held at University Farm, between the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 29 and 30, and May 1.

The short course will open at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 29, and "right off the bat" will take up discussion of problems of vital interest to newspaper publishers. At 6:30 the editor-students will be ready for a bit of relaxation, and this they will get through the goodfellowship of a dinner given by the Minneapolis Journal at University Farm. The dinner, it is certain, will put all who share it in a proper frame of mind for the speeches which are to follow. These will be by a representative of the Journal staff, by Prof. A. E. Jenks, at the head of Americanization work in the University of Minnesota, and by the Rev. G. G. Bennett, rector of St. Paul's church, Minneapolis, a man who thinks things through and speaks with enthusiasm and conviction.

Other features of the program for the dinner will be announced later.

The other evening features of the course will be a revival—a real "brass tacks" discussion of the one sound system of conducting the publishing business and making it pay. Joseph A. Borden, general secretary of the United Typothetae of America, a man who is doing perhaps more than any other to put the printing industry on a stable

and satisfactory footing, will be one of the speakers, and F. W. Beckman, who has done splendid work for the press of Iowa as head of the department of journalism in Iowa State College at Ames, will be the other.

These two features of the course alone will be worth vastly more than the moderate cost of attending.

The University Farm Press News, on behalf of the Minneapolis Journal, extends a cordial invitation to the editors of Minnesota to attend the dinner Thursday evening, and, on behalf of the University, an equally cordial invitation to hear Mr. Borden and Mr. Beckman on Friday evening.

Special invitations with programs will be sent out within a few days.

MUDDY BARNYARDS SPREAD DISEASE

The season of muddy barnyards is here. Perhaps it will be next to impossible to do very much toward draining them or hastening the drying out process. On the other hand, now is the time to study the problem of drainage and make plans for permanent improvement before another spring rolls around.

At this season one can study the course of natural drainage to the best advantage. If there is any tendency at all toward natural drainage, one can readily see how it can be improved either by deepening the open ditches already existing, or possibly by laying underground tile lines, with surface manholes opening into them for collection of the surface water before the frost has left the ground. In other locations, where the barnyards are extremely level, paving a part of the ground may be the only remedy.

At any rate, it is not profitable to allow cattle and hogs to drag themselves through mud belly deep for a month to six weeks every spring. Filthy barnyards are one of the most common causes of an outbreak and spread of foot-rot in cattle and cholera in hogs.—W. H. Peters of the animal husbandry division, Minnesota college of agriculture.

NO GAIN IN TOO EARLY PASTURING

"Farmers should not be in a hurry to turn their cattle out to pasture," says W. H. Peters, of the animal husbandry division of the University of Minnesota. "The cattle will travel over the entire pasture area, and by cutting up the sod with their hoofs, while the ground is yet soft, and grazing off the first blades of grass they will greatly reduce the amount of feed which the pasture will yield if they are kept off a few weeks longer so that the grass may have opportunity to make a real start. Under average conditions it will by all means pay best to keep the cattle off the pasture until the sod has become firm and the grass has attained sufficient start to support them fully from the time they are turned out. Cattle should be turned on new grass the first time about the middle of the day, after they have already had a good fill of dry feed. They should be driven back to the feed lot each night for three or four nights, and given opportunity to eat some dry food each morning before going to the pasture."

COMMUNITY SERVICE FAIR TRIAL ASKED

Attention of editors and county and home demonstration agents of the state is directed by the chief of the division of agricultural extension of the state university to the project of "Community Service," which is represented in the field by Judge Frank T. Wilson. A bulletin from the pen of Judge Wilson explains what is meant by community service, how to organize it and how to maintain it once organized. "The fact is emphasized," says the director of agricultural extension, "that what is offered is an experiment. Its value can only be determined by trial. We need experiment stations. Can your community be one? Your co-operation will not only be of help to your own community, but to the university and through it to the state and nation." Here, then, is opportunity for real service. The new slogan, says Judge Wilson, is "Each for all and all for each."

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

April 15 to 22

Uncover the strawberries before the leaves become white.

Set out a good small fruit garden right now. A few plants do not cost much, considering the return you can get from them.

Do not remove covering from perennials all at once. A small quantity taken off at a time is a better arrangement.

Plant that everbearing strawberry bed now. It will give you returns this fall. Progressive and Minnesota 1017 are good varieties.

Don't delay seeding those bad places in the lawn: Grass seed sown now has a much better chance to grow than it will a month from now.

Plant peas, radish and lettuce now. If the ground is still cold and moist it will be well to use some kind of smooth pea, since they do not decay so easily.

Small onion sets give more green onions per quart of seed and are just as good as the large bulbs sometimes purchased.

Don't plant more apple or plum trees than you can use the fruit from. But plant that many. Perhaps it will be a dozen or two dozen, but have some on the place.

A good lawn is best made of 80 per cent Kentucky blue grass and 20 per cent of white clover and red top. The red top and white clover are temporary grasses and soon give way to the blue grass. They do give a good quick lawn.

Potatoes were selling at a dollar a peck the other day. Many town and all farm homes could well raise their year's supply at much less than one dollar a peck.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

April 22 to 29

Start the lawn mower early before the grass is very high. It helps to level and smooth the lawn.

Cress makes a fine salad. It grows quickly and delights in cool weather.

Don't set strawberry plants below the crown. They are pretty apt to decay if this is done.

Head lettuce thrives best in cool moist weather. It cannot be grown to advantage in hot weather.

Horseradish roots should be planted early. Use roots about the size of a lead pencil and set them straight into the ground.

Make frequent sowings of peas, carrots, beets and spinach this year. The root crops are always more tender if grown rapidly.

Cabbage and cauliflower can be set out now. They are often set much earlier. Tomatoes and plants that are apt to be frosted should not be put out till the middle of May.

Plant a good supply of annuals for cut flowers in the home this year. Sweet peas, nasturtiums, phlox, zinnias, candytuft, and mignonette are all good.

Ventilate hotbeds and cold frames carefully on warm days. Open the sash on the side away from the wind. A little too much sun will do much damage to plants in frames now.

There are few prettier trees in bloom than apple or plum trees. The May-day tree, a form of cherry, is one of the earliest lawn trees to bloom and on the campus has proved excellent for shade as well as flowers. Few fruits form on it.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

PAYS TO DEHORN MARKET CATTLE

Dehorned steers or heifers not only can be handled more conveniently on the farm than cattle with horns, but if put on the market either as stock calves, feeders, or finished fat cattle, will sell for an average of one-half cent a pound more. This statement is made by W. H. Peters of the animal husbandry division at University Farm, who says further:

"The best time to dehorn is when the calf is from 10 days to one month old. The horns can then be easily killed, and with very little inconvenience to the calf, by rubbing them with a stick of caustic potash until they show a red surface. The caustic stick should be dampened on the end when rubbing the horn and should be held with a cloth about it or with an old glove on the hand. One application will suffice on the younger calves, but after calves are a month old it may be necessary to make two or even three applications. Yearling cattle can generally be dehorned with safety at this time of year. A dehorning clipper can be used."

Mr. Peters warns that purebred cattle should not be dehorned. The shape, size, quality, and position of the horns are characteristic of certain breeds and naturally have a bearing on the selling value. On that account, says Mr. Peters, breeders discriminate severely against purebred cattle when they have been dehorned.

HOGS SHOULD HAVE FIRST CLASS PASTURE

A plea for real hog pastures, not simply hog yards, is made by Forest Henry of Dover, Minn., a well-known institute leader for the agricultural extension division of the Minnesota college of agriculture. Mr. Henry believes in giving the hog a goodly modicum at least of the treatment and attention accorded other farm animals. He says:

"The most profitable hog pasture is a pasture so large that the hogs do not eat one-half of it. If it be alfalfa or clover, what remains uneaten at haying time can be cut and cured into hay. An acre of alfalfa or clover will make as much pork, so far as it can be used, as an acre of corn. The one builds up the farm and requires very little labor; the other reduces farm fertility and requires much high-priced labor."

"Good pastures not only make cheap pork, but keep the hogs in much better health and reduce the danger of hog cholera to the minimum. In these days a hog cannot be grown on grain alone and at the same time make money for his owner."

"U" FARM SOYBEAN SEED EXHAUSTED

According to A. C. Arny, in charge of farm crops, many inquiries regarding soybean seed are being received at University Farm. A small supply of the Chestnut variety was exhausted before the first of the year. It is, therefore, impossible, says Mr. Arny, to supply any soybean seed from the farm. Furthermore, Mr. Arny announces that soil for inoculating purposes cannot be furnished from the farm this year on account of a shortage of labor. Those who need inoculating material should get in touch with their county agents. If commercial inoculation is desired, application blanks may be secured by addressing the United States department of agriculture, bureau of plant industry, Washington, D. C. Various commercial inoculations are on the market and can be secured from seedsmen.

Mrs. Person writes further: "We are glad to know now that we can use our old material and make over our out-of-date suits. It is also easy to color our waists and thus have them new, instead of buying new ones all the time."

"It is groups like this," says Adele Koch, assistant state leader, "that are helping break down the high cost of living, and they get real joy in doing it."

CREAMERY AS MART FOR EGGS INDORSED

University agricultural extensionists advise farmers to market their surplus eggs and poultry through the creamery or cheese factory. Not all creameries are equipped for this new business, but those which have engaged in it have given a good account of themselves and many others are preparing to follow their lead. As the business becomes systematized, the quality of products improves and the financial returns become greater.

N. E. Chapman, poultryman with the extension division, says that 90 per cent of all farms that buy creamery butter are in the market for high grade eggs. Co-operative creameries are therefore in position to make money in eggs for themselves and their patrons.

Creameries buying eggs must secure a license and candle eggs received. The state dairy and food commissioner, St. Paul, will give information as to licensing and candling. Information concerning the handling of poultry products through the creamery may be obtained by addressing Mr. Chapman at University Farm, St. Paul.

WHITE SHRIVELED KERNELS DANGEROUS

Farmers are warned by Frank Frolik, extension division pathologist at University Farm, to look out for the white shriveled kernels in wheat seed. These kernels, he says, are infested with the scab disease (sometimes called blight) which did a tremendous amount of damage to the Minnesota wheat crop in 1919. Whether or not the scab disease will be serious again in 1920 will depend largely on weather conditions.

"The scab fungus lives in the soil as well as in the seed," says Mr. Frolik, "and, therefore, is difficult to control. The following precautions, however, will go a long way towards eliminating the disease:

"All wheat seed should be thoroughly cleaned on a good fanning mill, to remove all of the white, diseased kernels. Wheat should not follow corn because scab fungus develops especially well on corn stubble. If wheat has to follow corn, it is likely that Preston or Bluestem would be less injured than Marquis, which is very susceptible to the disease."