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EDITOR'S COLUMN

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

\$2.50 a Year New "Sub." Rate

The Redwood Gazette, the Brown County Journal, and the Sleepy Eye Herald-Dispatch announce an advance in subscription rates to \$2.50 a year, to meet advancing costs of labor, print paper and other material. "The grocer and every other business man," says the Herald-Dispatch, "has to change the selling price of his goods from day to day, and this paper does not promise anything stable in our price only for the present."

Stockman Takes Regular Space

The proprietor of Fairview Stock Farm has contracted for regular advertising space in the LeSueur Center Leader-Democrat. The editor says many farmers of that section have ads at work for them and are getting results that mean increased advertising from this source in the future.

Partisan Papers Held Out of Date

Luther Harrison, an Oklahoma state senator and editor, does not believe that politics should affect the tone or meaning of the news. "There is no more reason for having a democratic or republican newspaper than there is for having democratic and republican meat markets," was a striking statement made by him in a talk before students of the University of Oklahoma school of journalism.

Real Field for Country Press

The world news is important and can be had from the city dailies, but of news that centers in your own stamping ground and your own home circle, the local newspaper is the only source.—The Ohio Farmer.

Good Opening Upstate.

Publishers of one of northern Minnesota's most successful country weeklies tells the Press News that they would like to contract for the services of an editor-reporter, a newspaper man of experience and ability. The position is a permanent one and the compensation for the right man will be high. A man of less experience but of promising ability might do. Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota, will be glad to give further details.

Business Manager Wanted

The proprietor of a prosperous daily in northern Minnesota is looking for a young man of some experience to become business manager of the paper. Such a man can acquire an interest eventually, if he desires, and take over the entire management of the business. The proprietor has other interests to attend to. He has been hustling in the newspaper business for 35 years and thinks he needs a rest.

25 Cent Ad Rate Favored

John E. DuBois, president of the Western New York Editorial association, says that 25 cents an inch is the minimum price for which a weekly newspaper publisher should sell his space. Furthermore, it has been his experience that most merchants need help in writing their ads, and that if the editor gives this help it will pay him well.

Keep Up the Personal Column

Do not slight the personal column. Many old and seasoned editors contend that it is the most valuable single feature of the country newspaper. The editor should remember that to many persons a trip to the county seat or nearby city is a rarer thing than is the trip to the metropolis by some of the business men of the place.

Cows-Hens as Good as Factories

The Barnum, Minn., creamery disbursed \$213,121.46 for butterfat and eggs in 1919. Of this large sum \$53,433.02 was for eggs. Cows and hens are proving as helpful to Barnum as factories. N. E. Chapman, dairy extensionist at University Farm, gives the Barnum community five years more in which to reach the million dollar mark. This seems a big order, but Barnum is growing by virtue of its dairy cows and poultry.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

May 15 to 22

If you want clean potatoes at harvest time plant clean seed in clean soil. It is also best to treat all potatoes for scab before planting.

Roses are borne on new wood; most kinds produce too much wood, consequently it is a good plan to prune them back well in the spring before growth starts.

For extra good melons plant on hills of rotted manure and thin the vines to not over three plants to the hill.

Cut worms may be kept in check by feeding poisoned bran or clover. Scatter in the garden late in the afternoon.

Plant gladiolus and dahlias now. For a succession of gladiolus plant a few every week or ten days up to July 1.

Golden Bantam sweet corn may be planted now. Continue to plant at intervals of ten days up to July 1.

Fewer vegetables than usual are being planted by the market gardeners this year on account of labor conditions. This may have a tendency to make vegetables higher in price this year.

Cucumbers, tomatoes and other trailing plants may be grown on a fence or trellis to good advantage on a small lot.

The wild cucumber vine is one of the most rapid growing annual vines that may be used for a trellis or to cover up unsightly places.

Head lettuce does best in cool moist weather. Black seeded Simpson or Grand Rapids (loose leaf) varieties should be planted for warm weather use.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

May 22 to 29

Nitrate of soda is a good fertilizer to put on the lawn to keep the grass growing rapidly.

Plant plenty of celery and late cabbage for all seasons use.

More and more the chemists and nutrition workers are coming to find vegetables valuable in the diet. Plant and use at least a dozen vegetables liberally.

The National Association of Nurserymen has adopted a trade mark and propose to get rid of any dishonest nurserymen by means of a vigilance committee. This committee investigates complaints and will have a good influence in bettering trade conditions.

Keep up a succession planting of sweet corn, radish, lettuce, peas and beans until July 1. Then late in July begin again with beans, peas, radish, etc for late fall.

Chrysanthemums, geraniums and other house plants may be grown in the garden over summer and potted for house use in the autumn.

Prune grape vines enough to give plenty of room for each vine so that light and air may get in around them. Most varieties are inclined to produce too much wood.

Roses, gooseberries and currants may be increased by layering them. Tip a branch to the ground and cover it with earth.

The lilac, spirea, tartarian honeysuckle, iris, and mock orange are all useful flowers for Memorial day. Have you got them planted in your yard? If not, you are missing something that does not cost much but that adds much to our surroundings.

Late this month geraniums, cannas and other flowering plants may be set out provided the weather is settled and warm.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

SEASONABLE HINT
ON COOLING MILK

With the advent of warm weather some of the milk of the home dairy is likely to become sour unless steps are taken to keep it properly cooled. In this connection, Harold Macy, dairy bacteriologist at University Farm, says:

"In order to insure the best quality of milk for delivery, it should be cooled to 50 degrees F or below as soon as possible after milking and kept at that point until it is delivered. To do this it is necessary to depend upon some other means of cooling than air. If you have no cooler, the best way to do is to place the can of milk in a tank of cold water and stir the milk at intervals until it reaches the temperature recommended.

"If plenty of cold running spring water, or well water, is available, there should be no difficulty. If you have ice you can make good use of it to lower the temperature of the water. A little care exercised each day in the cooling of the milk will check the return of sour milk so common later in the season."

CONTRACTING THE
1920 POTATO CROP

Reports are reaching the extension division at University Farm that occasionally farmers are making contracts for the sale of their 1920 potato crop.

"Such a contract," says W. L. Cavert, farm management specialist, "is a very one-sided affair unless one is selling to a thoroughly responsible dealer. The farmer is a responsible party and must deliver his potatoes even if the market is higher than the agreed price. Upon the other hand, if the price at time of delivery should be lower than the agreed price, the grower may find it difficult to make the purchaser carry out his contract unless the seller has given a deposit of 50 to 75 cents a hundredweight.

"The plan being followed by a number of local co-operative associations of asking growers to pledge their crop to the local co-operative selling agency is to be highly commended, for in this way the grower is assured of the maximum market price at time of delivery. This puts the business of the local co-operative selling association upon a firm basis."

SORGHUM CANE GOOD
CROP FOR MINNESOTA

It is pointed out by John J. Willaman, of the agricultural biochemistry division of the Minnesota college of agriculture, that although Minnesota is on the northernmost limit of the sorghum growing regions of the country, the United States census shows that the tonnage of sorghum to the acre is greater in this state than the average for the country. According to Mr. Willaman, Minnesota growers can expect 10 tons to the acre on the average. If care in planting, cultivation and choice of seed is taken, 12 or 13 tons can be obtained, and in favorable seasons 15 to 18 tons to the acre is not unusual. The cane brings from \$7 to \$9 a ton at the sirup mill.

"No wonder then," says Mr. Willaman, "that farmers are enthusiastic about having a sorghum sirup mill in the neighborhood. It means an outlet for a cash crop with very satisfactory returns.

"Hand stripping of the cane, hand heading and hand bundling are now done away with in the up-to-date sirup factory. A corn binder is driven through the field, and the bundles of whole cane are hauled away to the mill. In other words, the crop is handled from planting time through harvest exactly like corn. The mill has machinery which removes the heads and leaves."

MILKING MACHINES
NEED GOOD CARE

Health officials and dairy inspectors are counseled by the United States department of agriculture, in a communication received by W. A. McKerron, dairy extensionist with the Minnesota college of agriculture, to study the relation of machine milking to bacteria counts. Owing to the construction of milking machines, persistent care must be exercised in cleaning them if market milk of high quality is to be produced. The department contends that definite cleaning instructions should be followed by every milking machine operator and that bacterial studies should be carried on under farm conditions. Machines should be thoroughly washed and sterilized if the milk is to be consistently low in bacteria counts.

MILLIONS MORE
IN EGGS POSSIBLE

N. E. Chapman, poultry extensionist with the University of Minnesota, says that one dozen more eggs in 1920 from every hen on the farm can be brought about by timely hatching, judicious feeding for growth, and comfortable housing. Mr. Chapman believes that a pullet may be made to lay 12 more eggs in November and December when the average price will equal or exceed 50 cents a dozen.

"If we have a large percentage of pullets in our farm flocks," he says, "say at least twelve million head, each one producing one dozen eggs more, or twelve million dozen, it will follow that the farmers will have \$6,000,000 more egg money during these months of 1920 than they had for the corresponding time in 1919.

"By way of encouragement it may be said that records show this production was surpassed during 1919. One flock of 375 birds averaged 10 eggs each in November and 18 eggs in December. Farm flocks of 250 birds averaged 14 eggs each per month for November and December, which is far in excess of average egg production in these months. Concerted action on the part of Minnesota farmers and backyard poultry raisers would add these millions for the family budget."

MOVIE BLAMED FOR
RESTLESS CHILDREN

The enforcement of a curfew so early that it will bar little children from attending moving picture shows is recommended by Lucy Cordiner, extension specialist in foods and nutrition with the University of Minnesota. Lack of sufficient refreshing sleep is a strong factor in originating and maintaining malnutrition. Right here Miss Cordiner hits the "movies". She says:

"The greatest evil from which children are suffering today is the moving picture show. Great numbers of children attend these in the evening and become more and more excited as the play progresses, frequently shouting and throwing their hats in the air. We realize that for these children, sleep will not be the restful institution which nature demands for a growing child. The enforcement of an early curfew in every town is essential to the health of children. The Saturday afternoon matinees, when the mother knows what play is to be given and its character, should be encouraged.

"In the line of pleasure, let us save something for the children's later years. The adults of today have not suffered because there were no evening moving picture shows when they were children, nor will the children of tomorrow suffer if we keep them at home, and really become acquainted with them in the evening hours."

BUTTERFAT SAVE
BY MAKING TESTS

Skimmilk tests which show more than .03 of 1 per cent of butterfat are evidence that butterfat is being lost. These tests are made at regular intervals by cow-testing associations and constitute one of the good points of the system. Unbalanced bowls and a deficiency in the speed of separators are responsible for loss of butterfat. Recent trials made in Blue Earth county and reported to dairy extensionists at University Farm show a skimmilk test of .15 of 1 per cent and two tests of .09 of 1 per cent. Why not join an association and stop some of the leaks?

HOW MARKETING
COSTS CAN BE CUT

A. D. Wilson, chief of the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota, holds that the price margin between the producer and consumer can be cut down if the producers in every community will work together sufficiently to produce a standard product of good quality and in quantities large enough to let it be marketed in car lots. "Improvement in marketing," he says, "must be along the line of reducing the labor and expense required in getting the products from the farm to the consumer. One of the things which tends to reduce this cost is to have produced in a community a large quantity of a uniform product." The marketing of co-operative creamery butter is cited by Mr. Wilson as an illuminating illustration of the truth of his premises.

MAIL COURSE FOR
RURAL TEACHERS

A correspondence course for rural school teachers is announced by the general extension division of the state university. Methods of teaching the various branches of study, the management of the school, and the relation of the school to the community are discussed. Attention of the rural teacher is directed to the significance of the country life movement. The course is arranged and taught by Ross L. Finney of the department of educational sociology. Full information concerning it may be obtained from the general extension division, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

POLLEN SCARCE,
BEES SUFFERING

Bees have been having a hard time this spring because of cold and cloudy weather. Little or no pollen has been carried into the hives since the bees were removed from the cellar, says G. C. Matthews of the bee culture division at University Farm, and, the old supply being exhausted, the colonies are dwindling. Bees cannot rear young in numbers until they can carry pollen freely. "This means," continues Mr. Matthews, "that old bees become worn out and die before young ones appear to take their places. Undue loss of old bees may be prevented by protection against wind, by wrapping the combs of bees in newspapers and keeping warm water close to the hives."

DO NOT OVERFEED
THE SKIMMILK CALF

"Overfeeding," says C. H. Eckles, chief of the dairy husbandry division of the Minnesota College of agriculture, "is probably the most common cause of lack of success in raising calves. It is a mistake to assume that because the cream has been removed the calf needs more milk or that because the calf is not doing well it is not getting enough milk and should be allowed to gorge itself. A good rule is always to keep the calf a little hungry. Some provision must be made for making certain that each animal gets its share and no more. A satisfactory plan is to tie the calves in small stanchions during the feeding. Each calf then gets its proper amount and cannot interfere with the feeding of others.

"Under natural conditions the calf takes its milk frequently and in small quantities. When fed by hand, two feedings a day is the general practice and special care must be taken not to allow the calf to consume more milk than it can digest. For the first two weeks it can 12 pounds a day is all that the largest calf should receive. If it can be done without too much inconvenience, the calf at this age should be fed three times rather than twice daily.

"As the calf grows older, twice-a-day feedings are sufficient and the milk may be increased, but at no time is it necessary to feed more than 16 or 18 pounds daily. By the time the calf needs more than this amount, it will take the additional feed necessary in the form of grain."

CARE OF WOOL
ADDS TO INCOME

A little extra care taken at shearing time will bring the flock owner a larger return for his wool and will serve the interests of manufacturers and consumers. The tying of fleeces is important.

"Only paper twine or jute twine should be used for this purpose," says Philip A. Anderson of the animal husbandry division of the Minnesota college of agriculture. "Never use sisal or binder twine, as it generally enters into the wool and frequently becomes part and parcel of the manufactured cloth. Buyers often discriminate against fleeces tied with sisal, for it is well known that the manufacturers will not pay the top price for wool so tied, even though all other conditions of the fleece are good.

"A nice bright day is the proper one for shearing," adds Mr. Anderson. "Flock masters should see that the sheep are not wet, otherwise the fleece may mildew and the fiber become much impaired. Fleeces should also be kept free from dirt and sand."

EGGS FOR HATCHING
SHOULD BE FRESH

It is poor policy, says N. E. Chapman, poultry specialist with the extension division at University Farm, to use hatching eggs that are more than two weeks old. Fresh eggs are the best. If it is regarded necessary to keep hatching eggs they should be stored in a temperature of 60 degrees or lower. Instructions sent with the incubator should be studied and followed.

DINSMORE FEARS
HORSE SHORTAGE

Reporting the fact that citizens of Denver recently rejected an ordinance which, if passed, would have made it a horseless city, Wayne Dinsmore, secretary of the Horse Association of America, says in a recent communication received by the animal husbandry division at University Farm:

"We need more good draft horses. The demand for them is stronger and prices are higher than at any time in history, and unless everything possible is done to bring about horse breeding we will have a shortage in coming years which will materially increase the cost of production and transportation."

FARMER PRAISES
"U" ACCOUNT BOOK

Writing to W. L. Cavert, farm management demonstrator, Minnesota college of agriculture, a farmer says: "Please send me a copy of the farm account book issued by the extension division. Have used them four years and think they are the best I ever saw."

Many country banks are supplying patrons with these books free of charge. If the farmer is unable to get one from his home banker, he may order it from the University Farm book store, University Farm, St. Paul. The price is 25 cents the copy.