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EDITOR'S COLUMN

Exchange Weekly Growing

The Minnesota Potato Exchange Weekly, the "house organ" of the Minnesota Potato Exchange, a farmers' cooperative organization, has been doubled in size and now has eight pages filled with live information and advertising. G. F. Gray is in charge of the publication department. A little item in the issue of Dec. 9 advises that the number of potato associations affiliated with the Exchange is now 103. The Exchange began shipping potatoes August 10 and up to Dec. 9 had handled 1,800 cars. The total business of 1920 was 2,504 cars.

The Dairymen's League News believes in the country weekly and its power for helpfulness in rural life. It has expressed its belief again and again. Now it is utilizing half pages of its perfectly good advertising space to tell its readers that the home paper is well worth while. "Your success and your happiness are built out of your own community," it says in one of the ads. "And one of the greatest forces serving your town is the local newspaper."

The Bagley Herald, for 15 years one of the leading papers of Clearwater county, has been merged with the Farmers Independent. According to the retiring editor, A. O. Peterson, Bagley should never have had more than one paper, the number it will have under the new arrangement. "No one has rallied to our support to keep the ship afloat, and, depending only upon the revenue received from rendering service and producing goods, we have found that we do profit the most by throwing up the sponge and parking the office towel in its respective corner," Mr. Peterson explains.

Good Hunch for Stories

Editors appreciate good ideas for items and stories, particularly new and timely ideas. The following suggestion is from the "hunch" department of Editor and Publisher and may be of value to editors in various parts of Minnesota.

"In every farming community there are farm owners who have given their farms a distinct name. Locate those in your community and write a series of articles on the farms and their owners. A picture of the farm homes would add attractiveness to the articles. After publication of the first few articles both rural and city subscribers will wait anxiously for the appearance of the next one. Then within the next few months notice the increase in the number of farmers applying names to their farms, placing the name on the barn or a large sign board erected in front of the home."

PRESS NOTES

A tour of the Yellowstone National Park is contemplated as a special feature of the 1922 meeting and outing of the National Editorial Association.

A new paper, the Independent, is about to be established at Freeport in Stearns county. Frank A. Bennett of Wadena will be editor and publisher.

The Preston Times recently began its sixty-second year. For more than 35 years it has been a leader in country weekly journalism in the state.

The winter meeting of the Northern Minnesota Editorial association will be held at Sauk Center, Jan. 26, 27, 28. A program is now being prepared.

STEADY MARKET FOR DRAFT TYPE HORSE

Animal industry faculty men at University Farm believe that every farmer, whether he is raising horses or not, should be a booster for horses. Every time a horse is replaced by a truck or tractor, they say, not only is the market for another horse lost, but also the market for at least two tons of corn or oats and three tons of hay every year. "When you figure the amount of feed for which the market has been lost," they say, "by the replacement of horses with tractors or trucks you will find that it aggregates more than the total export of oats, corn and hay from the country, also it has been a considerable factor in lowering the prices of these three crops.

"There is no longer a choice as to what type of horses to raise. The draft type suitable for heavy work is the only horse for which there is a steady market."

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

January 1-8, 1921

Do not bring hyacinth or daffodil bulbs into the light until well rooted. Strong roots are more likely to give good flowers.

Rhubarb in the cellar may be watered and given more heat to encourage growth. Keep the top in the dark in order to get as small leaf growth as possible.

Among the vegetables that created comment at the crop show was a small type of Hubbard squash, originated at University Farm. It is of more convenient size than the ordinary Hubbard.

The Minnesota Fruit Breeding farm showed two or three hundred seedling apples at the crop show, among them about a dozen that will bear close watching. They bid fair to give Minnesota a long-keeping apple. Wedge and No. 90 are two good ones.

Some varieties of ornamentals will be scarce this year. Better get orders in early for shrubs or perennials to be planted this spring. Plant a few peonies, iris, gladioli and larkspurs for cut flowers. They are worth while.

Several hundred dollar's worth of flowers were distributed this year by the Minnesota Garden Flower society to the wounded soldiers in the Twin City hospitals. Probably no visitor is more looked for than are the ladies who each week take these flowers. Each can relate many experiences, showing the boys' appreciation of the flowers.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

January 8-15

Cyclamen can be kept in flower six or eight weeks if kept cool and properly watered.

Poor seeds do not pay at any price. Be sure to buy good seeds from seedsmen of established reputation.

Send for vegetable, flower and nursery catalogs and make up the seed and shrub list for next season's planting.

Join the State Horticultural society and get a monthly magazine and a choice of two premiums of plants all for one dollar. It's worth it.

Have you quail or other wild birds on the place? See that they have some feed available. Heavy falls of snow cover their feeding ground.

Set potted plants in a pan or pail of water long enough to saturate the soil well, then drain well before returning to the window or stand.

Attend the Farmers' and Homemakers' week at University Farm, January 2-7. An interesting horticultural program has been prepared for every day of the week.

Plant breeding and selection plays a big part in the horticulture of the northwest. We have had to make nearly all our fruits and many of the vegetables. There is still room for improvement.

The United States used about five million Christmas trees this year. Some of these were shipped long distances and cut weeks before they could be used. Better trees could be raised in windbreaks and cut as the breaks need thinning.

The champion boys and girls garden club this year was the "Cyrus Club" of Cyrus, Pope county. The estimated value of its products was \$561.05. The good the boys and girls got from the work would be hard to estimate. This sort of thing is worth while.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

WHAT WHEAT AND OATS TO SOW IN '22

Minnesota experiment station and substitution men unite in recommending Marquis, a common bread wheat, and Mindum (Minn. No. 470), a durum, for spring sowing, and Minturki (Minn. No. 1507), a winter wheat, for sowing next fall. The recommendations are based upon the results of careful field trials carried on at the various stations.

Minturki wheat, produced at the Minnesota station by crossing Odessa, a very winter-hardy Russian wheat of low yielding ability, with Turkey wheat, will be in generous supply for planting for another fall and can be obtained through the Minnesota Crop Improvement association or by inquiry of experiment station men. This wheat excels in winter hardiness, but does not have the strength of flour of Marquis.

Early maturing oats, either Sixty-Day (Minn. No. 674) or Iowa 103, are especially recommended for planting in southern and west central Minnesota counties. Recommended medium maturing varieties are Victory, Accession No. 514; Minota (Minn. No. 572); Improved Ligowa (Minn. No. 281).

NECESSARY TOOLS FOR THE FARM SHOP

Farm machinery can often be repaired at home and made to do for several seasons. This would seem to be the thing to do under present economic conditions, rather than to make new purchases of expensive equipment.

A good solid bench is necessary if tools are to be used to advantage. Where the farmer desires to do most of the woodwork and blacksmithing, it will be necessary to add a forge, dies, tongs, etc.

The following list includes the tools without which it is not economical to carry on a quarter section farm, say agricultural engineering division men at University Farm:

- Machinist's vise, 4 inch
- Vise screw, 1 1/8 inch
- Anvil, cast iron or piece of railroad, 70 pound
- Saw vise, 10 inch
- Framing square, 16 inch x 24 inch
- Marking gauge, 8 1/2 inch
- Dividers, 6 inch
- Rule, 2 foot
- Level, 26 inch
- Hand saw, 26 inch, 8 points
- Rip saw, 28 inch, 5 1/2 points
- Hack saw
- Files: Flat bastard, 12 inch; mill 10 inch; round bastard, 10 inch; round, 6 inch; slim taper, 6 inch; slim taper, 5 inch; half round, wood, 10 inch.
- Post drill
- Brace, 10 inch
- Blacksmith drills, (1/2 inch shank), 1/4 inch, 5/16 inch, 3/8 inch and 1/2 inch
- Bit stock drills, 1/4 inch, 5/16 inch, 3/8 inch and 1/2 inch
- Auger bit, 1/4 inch, 3/8 inch, 1/2 inch, 5/8 inch and 3/4 inch
- Expansive bit, 7/8 inch, 3 inch
- Gimlets, Nos. 4, 5, 6, and 7
- Jack plane, 15 inch
- Chisels: Cold, 1/2 inch and 3/4 inch; socket firmer, 1/2 inch and 1 1/2 inch; drawknife, 8 inch
- Hammers: Nail, 1 1/4 pound; blacksmith cross pein, 1 1/2 pound
- Mallet, mortised handle
- Punches: Center, 3/8 inch x 4 inch; solid, 1/4 inch, 5/16 inch, and 7/16 inch; revolving belt, 4 tube
- Wrenches: Knife handled monkey, 12 inch; pipe, 14 inch; crescent, 6 inch; crescent, 10 inch
- Double end enginners': Cap screw, 1/4 and 5/16 inch; nut 5/16 and 3/8 inch; nut, 7/16 and 1/2 inch; nut, 9/16 and 5/8 inch
- Pliers, slip joint, 6 inch
- Screw drivers, Hurwood, 3 inch and 6 inch
- Wrecking bar, 30 inch
- Grindstone
- Oilstone, India combination 1x2x7 inch
- Oiler and oil can
- Tinners' snips (small)
- Soldering copper, 1 1/2 pounds
- Riveting machine for tubular rivets.

GIVE COWS A CHANCE, SEE INCOME INCREASE

E. A. Hanson, dairy extension specialist at University Farm, renews the inquiry, "Are you keeping cows or are they keeping you," in a collection of feeding suggestions recently issued by him.

"Put the cow to work," he says, "and she is the most efficient money maker on the farm today. A cow producing 25 pounds of 4 per cent milk daily makes one pound of butterfat a day worth about 50 cents. This cow needs rations and hay and silage which should not cost more than 15 cents daily, leaving 35 cents daily above the cost of her feed. Where can you invest your time and efforts to better advantage? Give your cows a chance. They are all capable of doing better when properly fed."

NEW BULLETIN DEALS WITH FARM LEASES

So many farms are operated by tenant farmers that various differences and problems concerning rentals are bound to develop. W. L. Cavert, farm management specialist with the university's agricultural extension division, has prepared Special Bulletin No. 51, entitled "Farm Lease Contracts," which may be had on application to the office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul. Mr. Cavert gives advice concerning the selection of a farm by a tenant, the selection of a tenant by the landlord, and keeping up the productivity of the farm, in addition to explaining different kinds of leases. If called on, county agents and the university's specialists will, so far as their facilities permit, offer suggestions to tenants or landlord in solving rental problems and perplexities.

BANDS USED TO MARK BEST LAYING PULLETS

According to N. E. Chapman, poultry specialist with the agricultural extension division of the state university, the first of February is a good time to band the best pullets—the birds that have the early laying and high production marks.

"These are the birds," says Mr. Chapman, "to breed for next year. The successful poultryman employs every means possible to determine the highest producers of his flock that he may put them in the breeding pen. Bands made of celluloid can be secured from poultry supply firms.

"A pullet that has a white beak on Feb. 1, has made a fair record in egg production and deserves a blue band on her right leg. Such fowls will generally have long keels, loose "side bones" on the keel, wide back and a spread of three fingers between the pelvic or lay-bones, and a hand depth from these to the end of the breast bone or keel."

POTATO SPRAY RINGS AS FOUND IN EAST

Information from the federal extension office concerning cooperative potato spraying as practiced successfully in Bennington county, Vermont, has been sent to Minnesota county agents from the office of R. C. Rose, an extension division specialist of University Farm.

Mr. Rose believes that "spray rings" are especially helpful for farmers who cultivate a limited acreage of potatoes each year. The system used in Vermont appeals strongly to him as being safe and sound. Under it two directors agree to finance each association during the season. One of them acts as treasurer. In each association a list of those desiring to have their potatoes sprayed is solicited, no attempt being made to perfect an organization until the list totals approximately 50 acres, all within an easy distance.

In operating an association, one man is hired for about two months to keep the sprayer going from early in July until the end of the growing season. This operator keeps track of the time spent and of all materials used. Upon his report at the end of the season is worked out a pro rata basis of the cost of spraying.

The average cost per acre in one of the Vermont associations, where 257 acres were sprayed, was \$2.06 an acre for each application. The summary of the charges of another association was as follows:

Cost of machine and incidentals for each individual acre sprayed	
Arsenate, per pound.....	\$.047
Copper sulphate, per pound....	.09
Lime, per pound.....	.013
Man labor and horse labor, per hour	1.185

POULTRY MAY NEED TONIC; HERE'S FORMULA

A good tonic for the poultry flock during the winter season, when neglected colds may lead to canker in the mouth and throat, or diphtheria or even roup, for which no cure has yet been found, is made of the following ingredients, according to poultry specialists at University Farm: One pound of gentian, one-half pound of iron sulphate and one-quarter pound each of ginger and saltpeper. These should be purchased separately in pulverized form and mixed together. Feed one tablespoon to one quart of ground feed. Charcoal should also be mixed with all dry or wet mash as an internal disinfectant.

GRIME ELIMINATED BY COLD CREAM METHOD

It is not necessary for anyone to have grimy hands at all times, because they happen to be working on a dirty, greasy tractor, automobile or other piece of machinery, according to J. G. Dent, instructor in agricultural engineering at the University of Minnesota.

Before starting on the job, he advises, rub the hands and under and around the finger nails full of cold cream. Vaseline is sometimes used but cold cream is better. Rub off the excess and go ahead with the job.

When washing up time comes it is surprising how clean and white a little soap and hot water will make the hands.

COWS APPRECIATE A NICE WARM DRINK

Do not permit your cows to drink ice water, is the admonition of E. A. Hanson, dairy extension specialist at University Farm. "Cows will not drink the needed amount of water when it is cold," says Mr. Hanson. "If the stalls are not provided with water buckets, place a tank heater in your tank. It is far cheaper to heat the water with coal or corn cobs in the tank heater than with corn fed to the cows."

MEMBERSHIP CONTRACT VITAL TO COOPERATIVE

The question of membership, one of the most important encountered by cooperative associations, is treated at length in the bulletin entitled "Local Cooperative Potato Marketing in Minnesota" by John D. Black and Paul L. Miller of the division of agricultural economics, state college of agriculture.

"The custom of taking local business men and other public spirited citizens into membership, in order to secure their financial assistance is not a good one," according to the authors of the bulletin. "Membership should be limited to those who furnish the business for which the organization was established. Loaning supplementary funds to an association is an entirely different function, and one which does not require membership and should not carry membership with it."

Calling attention to the fact that all Minnesota potato growers have not taken kindly to the definite contract agreeing to deliver to the association whatever they grow, the bulletin recites the arguments heard on both sides of the proposition and then makes the following deduction:

"It is reasonably safe to believe that the membership contract will be used more and more as time goes on. This is what has happened in Europe wherever cooperation is thriving greatly. It is one of the important reasons for the success of cooperative marketing in the Pacific coast states. Without it, the Michigan Potato Growers' Exchange, according to its own manager, could never have come through its first two years. Undoubtedly there is still much to learn about membership contracts. Some of the large organizations that are relying upon them so largely are likely before very long, and as a direct result of them, to meet with grave disaster. In the end, however, its proper use will be determined, and it will play a large role in successful cooperation. The potato growers of Minnesota cannot afford to hang back."

Copies of this bulletin of 88 pages may be had free on request to the office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

8 POTATO VARIETIES HAVE O. K. OF EXCHANGE

The Minnesota Potato Exchange, a farmers' cooperative enterprise organized largely through the efforts of the agricultural extension division of the university and the farm bureau, is interested not only in marketing potatoes, but in their production and handling from the field to the bins of the ultimate consumer. To bring about the best results in production it recommends the growing of only five late varieties, namely, Green Mountain, Rural, Burbank, Burbank Russet and King, and three early varieties, Early Ohio, Triumph and Cobbler.

OUTLOOK HELD BRIGHT FOR POULTRY KEEPERS

Lowering prices for feed and gradually increasing prices for eggs portend a good season for the poultry keeper, in the opinion of N. E. Chapman, of the agricultural extension service of the university, who advises owners of flocks to bend every effort to get the largest possible production during the fall and winter. "To this end," he says, "the pullets must be brought to the production stage as quickly as possible by feeding a fattening ration until they begin to lay. The laying flocks should be confined in the poultryhouse at night so that the pullets may acquire the habit of occupying the roosts and laying in the nests."

POOR QUALITY CREAM CUTS BUTTER PRICE

A single can of poor cream may and often does in fact depress the price of a shipment of butter from a creamery receiving and using the tainted product. A. J. McGuire, dairy authority with the agricultural extension division of the university, recalls that there was a difference in price of from 10 to 15 cents a pound between 92 and 88 scoring butter last fall and winter.

Every can of cream that may be of bad flavor on account of age and uncleanliness," he says, "should be inspected at the creamery. The owner should be shown the loss that can and does occur in the sale of all the butter from even a single can of poor cream. Every buttermaker should school himself in talking to his patrons on the condition of their cream and in urging high quality."