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EDITOR'S COLUMN

The Farmer and Editor

On an automobile trip to Fergus Falls last summer it was my privilege to call on editors, bankers and lawyers in the principal towns through which we passed. In the banks we frequently saw agricultural products on display and in one or two instances we saw similar displays in the newspaper offices. In every case, we found the editors sympathetic toward problems of the farmer and they always manifested interest in the farmer himself. This interest led me to wonder whether or not the farmers fully realize how much the home newspaper means to them and how much more it could mean if they were to cooperate with it in full-degree.

There is splendid material for newspaper articles coming out of the operations on the good farms in any progressive agricultural community. Such articles appearing in the home newspaper should be appreciated by the people of both country and town. I say this because I know they are read with much interest when they appear in general farm papers. I am told, however, that there is a tendency on the part of farmers to jibe and josh their neighbors who happen to be played up in the newspapers. It is almost impossible to conceive of this being done to the extent that farmers are reluctant to cooperate with the editor in featuring those operations on their farms which their fellow farmers should know about, but I am told that it is. They are made to feel as though they have an "axe to grind," "a political bee" in their bonnet, or something else equally reprehensible.

There is a feeling, too, that farmers as a class, are very reluctant to acknowledge the merit and leadership of their nearby neighbors. Such attitudes stand in the way of progress and surely the time has arrived when we should begin to break them down. They stand in the way of making the home newspaper what it would like and ought to be. After all they are not the honest to goodness, real heart attitudes of our farmers. We are talking constantly about cooperation in solving our farm problems. There cannot be healthy cooperation without confidence and faith in one another, and these should exist openly and frankly among farmers to such an extent that they can support the editor of the home newspaper by giving him a full opportunity to bring out the best things concerning the rural life of the community which his paper represents.—W. C. Coffey, dean of the department of agriculture, University of Minnesota.

Another Change at Osseo

Another change of management in the Hennepin County Review, published at Osseo, is announced. F. M. Hubbell retires as editor and manager, and Frank J. Prochaska will carry on the business as lessee of the Hennepin Publishing company. He will be managing editor. C. H. Hubbell, president of the company, will be associate editor. Under the new management it is promised the paper will be all home print, and have at least eight pages.

Country Weekly a Strong Motive Force

Prof. Osman C. Hopper of the department of journalism, Ohio State University, believes in the mission of the country weekly. "There is no agency so necessary to community progress as the weekly or semi-weekly newspaper," he says. "It is to the community what the locomotive is to the train. If the locomotive moves, the train moves. If it is stationary, so is the train. Similarly, a wide-awake progressive newspaper makes a wide-awake progressive community; and any reasonable program of achievement that it sets and wisely works for in the interest of all the people, can be realized."

Thrift a Moral Tonic

Dr. Frank Crane, of the New York Globe, says: "Thrift is a general moral tonic. It develops character. It takes self denial, and hence creates self-mastery, which is the thing any human being most needs."

Inter-County Press at St. Charles

The Union-Free Press of St. Charles has changed its name to the Inter-County Press, from the fact that by reason of its location it circulates in Winona and Olmsted counties, being not far from the county line. The change is the result, it says, of suggestions and constructive criticism by readers. The editor says the office is now setting more news type than it ever has before, and that it will continue to make improvements.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

March 15 to 22

It is not too late to order some fruit trees or berry plants.
Endive and Chinese cabbage are good salad plants.
Beets, onions, radish and lettuce may be sown in hotbeds now.
Rich soil and plenty of room are needed for the best development of the sweet pea.
Plant radish or other rapid growing and maturing crops with slow growing crops, such as parsnips, beets, carrots, or onions.
Dust sprays are being used considerably in the east and appear to give satisfaction.
Dahlias, gladioli, sweet peas, pansies and perennials are good money crops if one is near a large town or summer resort.
Branches of lilac, cherries or plums with well developed buds may be brought into the house now and forced into flower.
Try planning for and making a shady spot, well-sheltered, in the yard at the rear or side of the house—a sort of outdoor room, perhaps. You will be surprised at the amount of use it will have.
It is time to get the spraying machinery in shape and lay in a supply of spray material. It does not pay to get along without spraying.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

March 22 to 29

Don't plant seed too deep.
Watch the ventilating and watering of the hotbed closely these days.
Most early flowering annuals and any perennials that were not planted early may be sown now.
Petunias, asters, snapdragons, forget-me-nots, etc., should be sown now.
Be sure all cuts made in pruning trees or shrubs are clean, smooth cuts. They will heal easier.
Bird houses should be made and put up this month.
Sow parsley in a box or pot for transplanting outside when the weather permits.
If peonies or rhubarb are set out in the spring the work must be done just as early as it is possible to work the soil, as both start into growth early.
Be sure that you have good strains of lettuce, onions or cabbage if you want the best yields at harvest time.
Golden Self Blanching celery may be sown now. Sow in fine loamy soil and just slightly cover the seed.
Among the best annuals for cut flowers are nasturtium, gaillardia, aster, calliopsis, cosmos, nigella, scabiosa, pot marigold and cornflower. Order seeds now and be ready to plant them either in the house or cold frame.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

CLOVER SEED GROWN

AT HOME IS SAFEST

Clover seed from Italy and other countries of similar climate produces plants that are not hardy in northern districts of the United States. Yet there came into this country two and a quarter millions of pounds of this clover seed annually from 1910 to 1914. In 1919 four and one half millions of pounds of this seed came into the United States. This seed is not sold to farmers in the condition that it comes in, because seed-houses know it is inferior and will not produce good crops. Therefore it is mixed with native clover seed before it is sold. This lowers the value of the native grown clover seed and undoubtedly is the cause to a considerable extent of the unsatisfactory clover crops.
The only way to be safe is to buy from reliable firms which will guarantee the source of the seed or purchase from growers in the immediate vicinity.
When purchasing direct from growers care should be exercised to secure seed free from noxious and otherwise troublesome weed seeds.—A. C. Army, section of farm crops, University of Minnesota.

HOW SCHOOLS CAN GET

TREES FOR ARBOR DAY

The forest experiment station of the division of forestry of the University of Minnesota offers the schools of the state an opportunity to secure 25 small evergreen trees for Arbor Day planting. The request must be accompanied by 25 cents to cover the cost of digging, packing, and shipping. This offer is open only to the schools of Minnesota and only one shipment can be made to a school. The trees will be shipped from the nursery at Cloquet in time for planting on Arbor Day. The date for Arbor Day is set by the governor's proclamation. Requests received later than April first cannot be filled. Address all requests to assistant superintendent of forest experiment station, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

SEED CORN TESTS

REVEAL WHEAT SCAB

A. H. Larson, who is in charge of the University's seed laboratory, finds that much of the seed corn tested thus far this year has been infected with wheat scab. Although the germination tests as a whole have been comparatively high, due to the favorable season of 1921 for the maturing of corn, wheat scab has been found to be prevalent.
"This organism lives over winter in the soil or in the seed or in old stems of diseased plants," says Mr. Larson. "It is found growing on all grains including corn. No doubt many farmers have noticed this disease on corn when it had rotted the cob more or less and turned it pinkish in color. Often the husks may be cemented together by the pinkish mass of mold. Small grain planted after a crop of scabby corn is almost invariably infected and the yield and quality much reduced."
"One way of reducing the ravages of this disease in corn is to test the corn for germination before planting and discard all the ears from which diseased kernels came. The individual ear method must be used. The pinkish mold develops extensively in five or six days under germinating conditions and the diseased seeds can be easily seen. These would, if planted in the field, produce diseased plants. The sawdust and the ragdoll germinators are both good methods for making individual ear tests."

GETTING FARM FLOCK

ON BUSINESS BASIS

N. E. Chapman, poultry specialist with the university's agricultural extension division, believes it is possible to put the "biddy business on a business basis," as he puts it. He says: "A dairyman having a herd of well bred cows that freshen in October can go to any bank in Minnesota on Nov. 1 and borrow \$100 for 60 days on his note without security. He can do this because the banker knows that the dairyman's cream checks will pay the note. The poultry business may be put on such a basis that the poultryman who has a farm flock of well bred pullets, beginning to lay in October, may borrow of any bank \$100 for 60 days to be paid from the egg checks."
"There are creameries in Minnesota handling eggs that pay as much for eggs each month as for cream from their patrons. In these communities 'the biddy business is on a business basis.' What every farm needs is a flock on as firm a basis of production as are our dairy herds. Put the farm flock on a business basis and the owner will live better and enjoy himself more."

WATER AT LOW COST

IN THE FARM HOME

What is known as the house-side tank water system, which can be used in non-freezing weather only, can be installed for \$25 to \$30, or even less, provided the materials are purchased to advantage, or picked up about the place, and the householder does as much as possible of the work of installing.
The materials needed are a stock water tank of proper size; a cover, supports and braces for the tank; eaves troughs of some kind for the house roof; a sink, and a convey board to carry the waste water from the house.
Full particulars concerning installation and costs of the house-side tank system, and also a year-round system, which requires a cistern, are given in the Minnesota Farmers' Institute Annual for 1921. Send six cents postage to the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul, and receive a copy of this valuable publication.

BARBERRY MEN WILL

MEET AT "U" FARM

When state leaders of barberry eradication in 13 spring wheat states of the northwest gather at University Farm March 23 and 24 to discuss plans for getting the most efficient and quickest methods of eradicating the common barberry, the report of Dr. W. W. Robbins, botanist in charge of barberry eradication research work in the United States Department of Agriculture, who is searching for some cheap chemical with which to make war on the barberry bush, will be a feature of the conference. Dr. Robbins has spent considerable time trying to find a chemical for use, especially on escaped bushes in rocky areas and other sections where absolute eradication by digging is impossible. Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Minnesota will be represented at the conference.

ACREAGE OF ALFALFA

SHOULD BE INCREASED

"From a good stand of alfalfa, yields of from three to five tons of hay per acre are commonly secured," says A. C. Army of the farm crops division at University Farm. "This is a larger tonnage of hay per acre than is secured from any other leguminous crop suited to Minnesota conditions and at the same time the value of the hay for feeding is superior to the hay from other leguminous crops."
"Alfalfa hay on the farm increases the number of livestock that can be carried economically by producing more and better roughage, and at the same time puts the soil in condition to produce higher yields of corn and grains following in the rotations."
"Alfalfa is a particularly valuable crop on the sandy lands of the state. On the sandy soils applications of lime are essential for success with it. The expense of an application of lime is returned very quickly in the increased yields of this valuable hay crop."
"In southeastern Minnesota lime is also necessary but in western and northwestern parts of the state, stands may be secured without lime applications. Complete directions for securing stands of alfalfa are given in agricultural extension bulletin No. 49, entitled 'Alfalfa Growing in Minnesota.'"

POTATO GROWING—DON'T

PLUNGE, SAYS McCALL

Urging farmers to grow into the potato producing business and not to plunge into it, T. M. McCall, horticulturist at the Northwest Experiment station at Crookston, declares that many farmers, especially in the Red River valley, are planning to go into potatoes extensively this season. Advising concentration on fewer acres with resulting higher yields, Mr. McCall asserts that the man who will make money this year is the man who produces efficiently.
The acreage to be planted should depend on the type of soil and facilities with which the man has to work, Mr. McCall says. He advocates the use of the best available land put in the best possible condition; use of high quality seed; treatment of seed, which produces larger yields and stock of better quality; the use of a high pressure spray outfit capable of maintaining a pressure of at least 150 pounds, planting of the potato seed four inches below the surface of the ground, and giving the necessary time and attention to cultural practices.

OLD BEES NOW DYING;

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM

Beekeepers need not feel concern if many bees leave the hive in cellars at this time and perish on the floor. Francis Jager of University Farm, chief of the division of bee culture, explains that many bees put in winter quarters were old bees—that is, bees that hatched before Sept. 1. These are now dying a natural death. According to their custom they fly out of the hive to die, or, failing, their dead bodies may be found on the bottom-board. "Beekeepers who had young queens in their hives last fall," says Professor Jager, "or who fed their bees to stimulate them to broodraising during September and October, need not worry if the death candidates perish on the floor. They have enough young bees in the hives to bring the colonies out strong through the winter."

"U" DEVELOPS NEW

ALL-WINTER APPLE

After years of experimenting at the state fruit breeding farm at Zumbra Heights the horticultural division of the University of Minnesota has produced a hardy apple of superior quality that will keep through the entire winter, according to W. H. Alderman, chief of the division. The new apple, known only now as No. 90, but which will probably be named in honor of Charles Haralson, superintendent of the fruit farm, is superior in quality and size to the Wealthy apple and, unlike it, will last through the winter and spring without softening and losing flavor.
Instead of being grafted from one tree to another root, as may be done for propagation purposes after the right variety has been found, this new apple had to be grown from seed. It was obtained by a cross of the best tender variety with the best hardy variety that would grow in the state, the resulting seed having the characteristics of both parent varieties. A few seeds of superior quality were used for propagation and resulted in the apple which is a brilliant red and about four inches in diameter.
Within a few years Minnesota will be able to supply its own market apples with this new variety, Professor Alderman predicts.

NOW'S THE TIME TO

START THE GARDEN

The value of having a vegetable garden on the farm that will supply the table during the growing season with a bounteous amount of fresh garden produce cannot be estimated. A plot 100 by 100 feet properly planned, planted and cared for, should produce a good supply for table, winter storage and canning.
March is the month for starting plants that are to produce the first ripe vegetables. At least four weeks can be saved by starting plants of celery, cabbage, onions, beets, tomatoes and peppers in the house, beginning about the second week in March and planting in the order named, finishing with peppers about April first. Two or three cigar boxes placed in a south window will furnish room for a goodly number of plants, or a larger box about three inches deep and the right size to fit in a well lighted window will grow all the seedlings necessary for the small garden.
The seedling plants will need transplanting when the first true leaves appear. Prepare other boxes and transplant seedlings two inches apart each way. If it is preferred, paper pots can be used or cardboard strips can be cut and folded, forming shallow boxes. If seedlings are in these they can be easily set in the garden without disturbing the root system. When warm sunny days come, the boxes can be set outside for a few hours and the plants hardened off.
If considerable quantities of plants are required, hotbeds or cold frames can be built easily and used for growing early plants in spring, melons or cucumbers in summer, and as storage space during the fall.—W. T. Tapley, in charge of the section of gardening of the department of agriculture, University of Minnesota.

IPECAC RECOMMENDED

FOR TURKEY DISEASE

Blackhead, an infectious disease of turkeys, may occur among other fowls when turkeys are raised on the same premises. The disease is more prevalent during the late winter and spring months. Flocks in Minnesota have suffered from it to such extent that the business of turkey growing has declined in many localities.
"The cause of blackhead," says Dr. W. A. Billings, division of veterinary medicine at University Farm, "is generally considered to be an amoeba which is excreted in enormous numbers through the droppings from the diseased bird. Young poult are especially susceptible to infection. The liver and intestines are the organs infected."
"Prevention and treatment of blackhead have usually been unsatisfactory. Recently in southern California the use of ipecac has met with considerable success. This has led us to recommend it to turkey raisers in Minnesota. In many instances reports indicate the treatment is having some success."
"As a preventive, the dose is a teaspoonful of powdered ipecac given in the feed twice a week to each group of 20 birds. No allowance is made for difference in ages. As a curative for birds already infected each turkey is given 10 drops of fluid extract of ipecac by mouth once a day for three days. If this method is too laborious, make a mash containing three teaspoons of powdered ipecac to the quart and feed for three or four days."

EVEN SMALL GARDEN

WILL OFTEN PAY BIG

It is possible to make the garden pay big dividends for the amount of labor put upon it if that labor is well directed. A space 50x100 feet will, if properly planned and worked, give a supply of practically all vegetables, except potatoes and a few other coarse vegetables, for a family of four the whole year. It must be rich soil, well cultivated, and a plan followed that will use the space all the growing season. With the probable high prices of vegetables this year it will pay every city and town to encourage the planting and care of vacant lots and small plots of ground.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm.

FIVE ESSENTIALS IN

POULTRY PRODUCTION

There are five major factors in profitable poultry production, says N. E. Chapman, poultry specialist at University Farm—breeding, feeding, housing, management and care. "These are the essentials; combined they will put the poultry business on a practical business basis," he says. "A start can be made with hatching eggs, day-old chicks, or a few head of breeding stock of high production. The surest way to success is to grow into the poultry business."