

ED Aug 15-Sept 15, 1943

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota

Office of
Publications

EXTENSION DIGEST

September 20, 1943
For period
August 15 to September 15

This digest of selected press and radio releases is intended primarily to keep editors and professional workers in general touch with the activities of the Agricultural Extension Service and the Department of Agriculture, University of Minnesota. For detailed information on topics referred to, please ask for copy of original releases.

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August 15 - PINE SAWFLY DAMAGES EVERGREENS - Numerous reports have come into the state entomologist's office concerning severe damage to ornamental and evergreen plantings in urban and rural areas. According to T. L. Aamodt, state entomologist, damage is caused by the pine sawfly, which strips all needles from several species of pine and spruce, particularly Mugho and white pine. The caterpillars can be picked by hand from small trees and destroyed. On large trees or where the pest is too numerous for handpicking, quickest results may be obtained by spraying with lead arsenate.

August 15 - WATCH FOR ARMY WORM, FARMERS WARNED - Outbreaks of army worms and grasshopper infestations are on the increase, according to T. L. Aamodt, state entomologist, who has received reports of heavy local infestations in southeastern, southern and central Minnesota. Farmers are urged to watch alfalfa and low lying grassed areas for army worm infestations. Most effective method of control is to detect the young worms before they do damage and spread the poison mash in time.

August 20 - FARMERS SHOULD CONSIDER PLANTING WINTER WHEAT - With the effort being made to produce all the wheat and other feed grains possible, farmers might well consider the possibility of planting some winter wheat this fall, says E. R. Ausemus, USDA agronomist stationed at University Farm. In Minnesota, winter wheat is seeded in September when small grain harvest is over and before corn is ready for harvest. Two varieties, Minturki and Narmin, are recommended to Minnesota growers. In the event this fall's plantings should be winter killed, a good succotash crop may be obtained by seeding oats or barley in the spring.

August 20 - USE CARE IN SELECTING BREEDING EWES - A good job of selecting ewes for fall breeding purposes will help sheep raisers to get all the production possible without adding to present breeding flock numbers. Experimental work in sheep breeding at the University of Minnesota and branch experiment stations indicates the value of culling the ewe flock on the basis of production rather than appearance. Ewes that look best at weaning time, according to L. M. Winters, professor of animal husbandry, are by and large the ewes farmers had better get rid of. On the other hand, ewes that are thin and look rather tough are in most cases the ones that have been doing a good job of nursing their lambs and are worth keeping.

August 20 - GET GRAIN SEED NOW, ARMOUR URGES - This is a good time to locate next spring's small grain seed supply, says M. L. Armour, extension agronomist at University Farm, who urges farmers to obtain their seed now instead of taking a chance on getting

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, University of Minnesota, Agricultural Extension Division and U. S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating, Paul E. Miller, Director. Published in furtherance of Agricultural Extension Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914.

some next spring. Widespread demand for Vicland and Tama oats is showing up now because of the good yields obtained this year. Wherever possible, farmers having a surplus of Vicland and Tama oats should hold it for seed purposes if it is pure and can be cleaned of noxious seeds, Armour says.

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August 25 - FATTENING BEEF MAY STILL BE PROFITABLE - Fattening beef cattle may be profitable for the experienced feeder this fall and next year even under present price relationships, according to W. H. Peters, chief of animal husbandry division at University Farm. Established feeders should be encouraged to go ahead and buy the thin, light cattle, especially if these lightweights drop a little in price. Feeding them hay and silage to the fullest possible extent and feeding just enough grain to get good growth and a decent killing condition on the cattle should make it possible for feeders to make a satisfactory profit. In addition to making efficient use of limited amounts of grain, this practice would also contribute a great deal to the total meat supply.

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September 8 - WEEDS SPREAD VIRUS TO GARDENS - Victory gardeners who are looking forward to bumper prospects for next year can pave the way by cleaning up their gardens this fall. Exterminating weeds in and around the garden is particularly important, since diseases are carried by insects from weeds to garden plants. Many city gardeners have complained of abnormal symptoms in their vegetables this year, R. C. Rose, plant pathologist at University Farm, reports. The cause, he says, lies in a virus spread by insects such as leafhoppers, often from infected weeds near the garden or field.

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September 8 - RAM SALES TO BE HELD - Sheep raisers will have an opportunity to improve their flocks by attending county ram sales and picking flock sires that will insure better wool and faster gains in next year's lamb crop. Sale and exchange days will be held throughout Minnesota during September and October. At that time, purebred breeders and other shepherds will bring in their extra rams for sale or exchange. To insure a larger selection, a truckload of rams will also be brought in to increase the local supply. These trucked-in rams will be consigned by leading purebred breeders in the state. A large choice of big, young Hampshires and Shropshires is assured, and other breeds will also be represented.

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September 10 - CAMPAIGN FOR VICLAND AND TAMA OATS - To insure the biggest and best oat crop in 1944 that Minnesota has ever had, the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service and Experiment Station at University Farm announced plans today for a statewide campaign to urge every farmer in Minnesota to discard all old varieties and produce only the new Tama or Vicland oats. Dr. C. H. Barbey, dean of the University Department of Agriculture, says that in tests at University Farm for the last several years these new varieties have outyielded the widely grown Gopher oats more than 50 per cent and have shown large increases at the Waseca and Morris stations. Tama and Vicland have much greater resistance to disease than Gopher and are also superior in quality, showing a test weight per bushel 3.6 pounds above Gopher in University Farm tests.

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September 10 - PARKER ANDERSON TO GO TO ECUADOR - Parker O. Anderson, extension forester at University Farm, has been granted a year's leave of absence to accept a wartime forestry assignment in Ecuador, South America. He reports to the Office of Economic Warfare in Washington, D. C., preparatory to leaving for South America where he will engage in supervising the cutting and handling of strategic forest products. Anderson has been extension forester for the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service since 1926.

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September 13 - ASSISTANTS TO HOME DEMONSTRATION LEADER NAMED - The Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota has approved the appointment of Esther McKowen and Amy Wessel as assistant state home demonstration leaders. They will assist Miss Julia

O. Newton, state leader in charge of home demonstration work for the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service. Miss Wessel has served on the state extension staff as state 4-H club agent. Miss Wessel goes to her new post at University Farm after serving as home demonstration agent in Winona county.

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September 13 - PURCHASE WINTER SUPPLY OF POTATOES NOW - Consumers who have a good storage place for potatoes will profit by purchasing all or part of their winter's supply during the next month or six weeks, says D. C. Dvoracek, extension economist at University Farm and chairman of the state vegetable marketing committee. Laying in a supply now at comparatively favorable prices will be good insurance against later shortages, he said. Right now growers have a comparatively large crop on their hands but lack the space to store the potatoes.

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September 15 - POINTERS ON WHERE TO PLANT FLAX - Suggestions on where to put in the 1944 flax are given this week by M. L. Armour, extension agronomist at University Farm. Because flax always comes out a poor second in competition with weeds, the job of selecting next year's field boils down to those areas where flax will meet with the least competition. Fields that have been in a dense June grass sod for several years offer the best possible choice for 1944 flax plantings, Armour says. Next best are fields that have grown a clean cultivated crop - corn, soybeans, or sugar beets - for two or more years.

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September 15 - DON'T PLOW UP ALFALFA FIELDS - Farmers who ordinarily plow up alfalfa after it has produced crops for three or four years should not plow it up this year if fields still have fair stands, warns A. C. Army, University Farm agronomist. Alfalfa should be left for a year or two until seed supplies become more abundant. Army also cautioned against pasturing or cutting for hay this fall alfalfa to be used for hay or pasture in 1944. After November 1, in case of rank growth, part of it may be grazed off if care is taken to leave enough growth to hold a snow covering.

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September 15 - HOGGING OFF CORN GOOD PRACTICE - "Hogging-off" corn will save labor and make huskier hogs, according to H. G. Zavoral, extension animal husbandman at University Farm. Feeding trials on farms and at experiment stations show that pork was produced with less grain by hogging corn than by feeding ear or snapped corn in yards. Shoats averaging from 75 to 125 pounds are the most desirable weights to be turned out into the cornfield.

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WEEKLY - GARDEN AND TABLE - Column of timely, practical paragraphs on vegetable and fruit production, canning and storage, foods and nutrition. Supplied to county extension agents for local release.

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WEEKLY - TIMESAVERS FOR FARM AND HOME - A weekly column of labor saving tips supplied to county extension agents for local release.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

September 22, 23, 24 - Farm Bureau Women's Short Course
September 29-30 - Advanced Creamery Operators' Short Course
October 25-26 - Animal Nutrition Short Course

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

*Copies available on request from county extension agents
or Bulletin Office, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.*

CARE AND FEEDING OF BROOD SOWS by H. G. Zavoral, Extension Folder 90 (Revised June 1943). Six pages. Tips on proper care of the brood sow to insure profitable pork production.

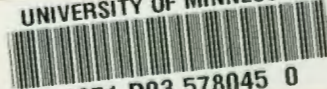
DUAL PURPOSE CATTLE by W. H. Peters, J. B. Fitch, H. R. Searles, W. E. Morris. Extension Bulletin 203 (Revised June 1943). Sixteen pages. Illustrated. Discussion of the adaptation, management, breeding, and feeding of the combination milk-and-beef type of cattle, as well as the equipment needed for dual-purpose production.

FASTER MILKING by W. E. Petersen. Extension Folder 119 (June 1943). Six pages. Illustrated. This folder shows how to cut your milking time in half and gives a few simple rules to assure the success of faster milking.

HOME VEGETABLE STORAGE by A. E. Hutchins and E. M. Hunt. Extension Bulletin 226 (Revised June 1943). Sixteen pages. Illustrated. Suggestions on maintaining proper conditions for successful vegetable storage. Directions for constructing various types of storage structures, including a basement storage room.

FOR HEALTH THIS WINTER STORE VEGETABLES - Extension Pamphlet 101 (Revised May 1943). Six pages. Illustrated. Suggestions on proper storage conditions for vegetables. Illustrations of storage room, root cellar, and vegetable pit.

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