

MIN 2000
ED Dec. 16-31, 1943

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA - U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY FARM.....ST. PAUL 8, MINNESOTA

Office of
Publications

EXTENSION DIGEST

December 31, 1943
For period
December 16 - December 31

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 release.

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December 16 - 1943 FARM INCOME LARGEST ON RECORD - Gross cash income from the sale of the 19 principal farm products in Minnesota in 1943 was the largest on record. Two and a half times the average of the prewar years 1935-39, farm income this year exceeded last year's by about 20 per cent, according to an estimate made by Warren C. Waite, professor of agricultural economics at University Farm; Behind this Minnesota farm income picture is an increase of nearly 50 per cent in the physical volume of sales during the past five years and an increase of nearly 75 per cent in farm prices. The 19 agricultural products used in the estimate of gross cash sales are wheat, corn, oats, barley, rye, flax, potatoes, hay, hogs, cattle, calves, lambs-sheep, butterfat, milk, farm butter, chickens, eggs, wool and turkeys. Sales of these commodities account for more than 90 per cent of Minnesota farm income. While the increase in gross cash income from the 1935-39 period has been the result of both an increase in the quantity of sales and higher prices, this year's increase over 1942 was due entirely to increased prices.

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December 16 - MATURITY RATINGS ON HYBRID CORN AVAILABLE - The score sheet for hybrid corn varieties registered for sale in Minnesota during 1943 has just been issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at University Farm and is now available to growers and dealers. The maturity ratings of 391 varieties tested in scattered plots over the state have been computed and are now available in Station Bulletin 374, which may be had from the Bulletin Room at University Farm, St. Paul, or from any county extension office in the state. The tests are made each year with the cooperation of the State Department of Agriculture, Dairy and Food, which uses the ratings in determining which hybrids are adapted to Minnesota conditions and can be officially recognized under the state seed regulations. Maturity is determined by moisture content of the corn at a specified harvest date. The state is divided into five maturity zones. Ratings are a guide to growers in their search for seed adapted to their own farm conditions.

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December 21 - APPLY FOR FERTILIZER NOW, URGES BURSON - While the supply of commercial fertilizer for 1944 food production is larger than in previous years except for potash and organic nitrogen, farmers should apply to their local dealers for fertilizer now if they are to be assured of getting supplies they need, warns Paul Burson, extension specialist in soils. Fertilizer delivered during the winter months must be stored with special care in order to prevent waste and damage. Store supplies in piles not more than eight to 10 sacks deep in a dry, weather-proof building. If the storage space has no floor, a raised platform can be built of materials on the farm.

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December 22 - TIPS ON MAKING LARD KEEP LONGER.

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December 29 - SUGGESTIONS FOR HOG RAISERS FOR 1944 - Farmers who have been disturbed by recent developments in the hog situation should plan their 1944 campaign with certain precautions in mind, says E. F. Ferrin, animal husbandman at University Farm. Ferrin lists these suggestions for hog raisers to follow: Make your 1944 planning take account of probable farm supplies of feed and of the past year's success or

failure in raising hogs; conserve grains and protein concentrates by the best possible use of hog pastures; keep pigs free from germ diseases and parasites; full-feed pigs farrowed in March for market before October 1, 1944, but grow the later pigs on pasture with just enough grain to keep them healthy; avoid December and January marketing to prevent the troubles we are now having in getting hogs sold.

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December 30 - SHEEP SHEARING SCHOOLS TO BE HELD - To offset danger of an acute shortage of sheep shearers this spring, the Minnesota Agricultural Extension service and the State Department of Education are again sponsoring sheep shearing schools in communities where the demand is great enough to warrant a two-day instruction period. Schools will be conducted by experienced shearers and are open to anyone wishing to learn sheep shearing. One of the aims is to teach flock owners so they can shear the home flock as well as do some custom shearing for neighbors. Last year 15 schools were held with a total enrollment of 235 from 38 different counties.

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December 30 - 4-H INSTITUTES TRAIN VOLUNTEER LEADERS.

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December 30 - 4-H SCHOLARSHIP AND CONSERVATION CAMP WINNERS - For long-time records in 4-H club leadership and project achievements, Frances Peters, Brownton, and Clarence Sargent, Crookston, will each receive scholarships of \$250 given by a Minnesota "Friend of 4-H," A. J. Kittleson, state club leader, announced today. Alternates named for the awards are Elsie Smith, Hibbing, and Robert Schwartz, Goodhue. Winners of the 4-H conservation camp news story contest, also announced by Kittleson, are Harriet Tews, Hutchinson, first place; Sigvald Sandberg, Ortonville, second place; and Julius Ost, Montevideo, third place.

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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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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Copies available on request from county extension office
or from Bulletin Room, University Farm, St. Paul 8, Minnesota.

LOOK FOR TWO EGGS FROM EVERY 1 LB. OF FEED - Extension Pamphlet 128 (December, 1943). Six pages. 1944 Food Production Program Series. Tips on getting the most out of the farm flock and of making best use of feed supplies.

WEEDS AND THEIR CONTROL by H. K. Wilson, A. H. Larson, R. F. Crim, R. B. Harvey, and L. M. Stahler. Extension Bulletin 183 (Revised June, 1943). Thirty-two pages. Illustrated. Weed prevention and control methods suggested. Minnesota's noxious weeds identified.

GROW VICLAND, TAMA - BETTER OATS - Extension Pamphlet 129 (December, 1943). Four pages. Facts showing superiority of Vicland and Tama oats in yield and resistance to disease.

THE MINNESOTA FARM OUTLOOK FOR 1944 by W. H. Dankers. Extension Pamphlet 130 (December, 1943). Eight pages. 1944 Food Production Program Series. Highlights of the 1944 outlook, with special emphasis on production and marketing.

MATURITY RATINGS OF CORN HYBRIDS REGISTERED FOR SALE IN MINNESOTA IN 1943 by R. F. Crim, H. K. Hayes, R. O. Bridgford, R. S. Dunham, R. E. Hodgson, F. R. Immer, E. H. Rinke, and Y. S. Tsiang. Experiment Station Bulletin 374 (December, 1943). Fifteen pages. Tables showing maturity ratings of corn hybrids registered for sale in the five maturity zones in Minnesota.

FEED SHORTAGE - Extension Pamphlet 127 (October, 1943). Eight pages. First pamphlet in the 1944 Food Production Program Series. Good management practices which will save feed but maintain production.

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