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

February 16, 1944

Office of  
Publications

EXTENSION DIGEST

For Period  
February 1 - February 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 release.

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- February 1 -- TRI-STATE VICTORY GARDEN CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 15-16
- February 3 -- NEW GRAPE VARIETIES ANNOUNCED FOR MINNESOTA
- February 3 -- CRISIS IN FARM TRUCKING FORECAST FOR 1944
- February 7 -- ANNUAL LAMB FEEDERS' DAY AT MORRIS
- February 9 -- SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO 29 MINNESOTA FFA BOYS
- February 9 -- A. L. HARVEY SPEAKS AT MISSOURI SHORT COURSE

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February 9 -- SPREAD PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER AND MANURE TOGETHER - Minnesota farmers who are unable to purchase fertilizer spreading equipment can easily apply phosphate fertilizer at the same time as they spread barnyard manure, says Paul Burson, extension soils specialist at University Farm. Phosphate and manure make a better balanced plant food for most soils. Phosphate used in this way will prevent loss of nitrogen and retard rapid fermentation. Rate of application of phosphate can be adjusted according to the number of loads of manure per acre. For example, a farmer who plans to spread eight loads of manure per acre and wants to apply 200 pounds of phosphate per acre can spread 25 pounds or one milk pail full of phosphate over each load of manure.

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February 9 - MILLIONS OF DOLLARS LOST IN GRUB-DAMAGED HIDES - Cattle owners can help prevent an annual national waste of over \$50,000,000 a year in damaged hides, beef and dairy products by instituting a campaign against cattle grubs. The control program is most effective if all cattle owners cooperate in it, says W. E. Morris, University Farm animal husbandman, since heel flies move from farm to farm. The loss in hides from grub damage each year would supply shoes for 2 million front-line soldiers. One out of every three hides is damaged by grubs. In 1942 carcass trimming losses from grub damage amounted to nearly 12 million pounds of meat. To offset the loss on grubby cattle, packers are forced to make a discount of from 50 cents to \$5.00 per head. Damage can be greatly reduced by treating infested cattle with a wash containing derris or cube powder. Applications should be made after swellings first appear and should be repeated about once a month as long as necessary. If applications are thorough, each treatment will result in the destruction of about 95 per cent of the grubs present.

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February 9 - GETTING HORSES READY FOR SPRING WORK - Horses that rough it all winter should be given a fitting period of four to six weeks in order to be ready for spring work by the latter part of March, according to A. L. Harvey, in charge of the horse section at University Farm. Beginning about the middle of February, or the first part of March in the northern part of the state, the ration should be changed from one consisting largely of coarse roughage to one that contains increasing amounts of grain and better quality hay. Harvey suggests starting with 2 to 4 pounds of grain per day then gradually increasing it, the amount depending upon the condition of the horses and the weight desired. He recommends oats as first choice, with ground ear corn or barley as second and third choice. To harden the horses' muscles, have the horses do a little work each day, gradually increasing it until they will be doing a full day's labor by the time spring work begins.

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, University of Minnesota, Agricultural Extension Service 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.

February 14 - DON'T THROW AWAY CONTAINERS; USE THEM AGAIN - Producers, handlers and consumers of farm and garden produce should keep containers clean and use them over and over again while they last. That plea was made today by W. H. Dankers, extension marketing economist, who points out that the shortage of new containers is such that many food items will either be delivered in used containers or not at all during 1944. New wooden containers will be very scarce for shipment of fruits and vegetables. There is also a shortage of egg cases, meat packing boxes and similar containers. Retailers and the buying public have been inclined to discriminate against used containers, but the War Food Administration is now asking them to accept produce on its merits, irrespective of the packaging materials used.

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February 15 - HOCHBAUM OUTLINES PROGRAM FOR BETTER GARDENING - Victory garden leaders from three states met in St. Paul today to discuss food requirements and lay early plans for 1944 garden programs. Representatives from North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota heard Governor Edward J. Thye at the morning session and heard USDA officials outline conference plans and victory garden goals. H. W. Hochbaum, chairman of the Inter-department Victory Garden committee, Washington, D. C., outlined a seven-point program for better gardening in 1944. Recommendations were: emphasizing earlier preparation of garden plots and timely planting; discouraging gardening on impossible soils or sites; emphasizing thorough soil preparation as essential to garden success; cautioning against planting and sowing too thickly and not thinning the seedlings; fighting insects and diseases as soon as they appear; advising gardeners to use disease-resistant varieties and certified seed; protective fungicides and insecticides; making supplementary water supplies available in midsummer at reasonable rates. Hochbaum reported that victory gardeners last year were responsible for 40 per cent of the total fresh vegetable production in the United States.

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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.

WEEKLY - MINNESOTA'S MARKET BASKET - A weekly column on food supplied to newspapers and radio stations.

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#### DATES TO REMEMBER

March 17 - School of Agriculture Commencement  
March 22-24 - Horticulture Short Course

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#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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

IMPROVING VICTORY GARDEN FERTILITY by Paul M. Burson and C. O. Rost. Extension Pamphlet 132 (January, 1944). Six pages. 1944 Food Production Program Series. How home garden soils can be made to produce greatest yields.

WELL MANAGED PASTURES by Ralph F. Crim and Paul M. Burson. Extension Bulletin 241 (January, 1944). Eight pages. Illustrated. How to get more feed at low cost through a well-planned pasture program.

POLLEN AND POLLEN SUBSTITUTES IN THE NUTRITION OF THE HONEYBEE by Mykola H. Haydak and Maurice C. Tanquary. Technical Bulletin 160 (June, 1943). Twenty-four pages. Results of experiments to determine the effectiveness of various pollen substitutes fed to bees.

THE HELMINTHS OF NORTH AMERICAN DEER by O. Wilford Olsen and R. Fenstermacher. Technical Bulletin 159 (June, 1943). Twenty pages. Illustrated. A report on the helminth and arthropod parasites collected from 95 deer taken in northern Minnesota, together with observations on their distribution and ecology.

SYSTEMATIC ANATOMY OF THE WOODS OF THE TILIACEAE by B. Francis Kukachka and L. W. Rees. Technical Bulletin 158 (June, 1943). Seventy pages. An investigation based on 578 wood samples to determine if the genera may be separated by comparative anatomy and to ascertain how anatomical groups compare with accepted natural classifications.