

ED Feb. 15-29, 1944

Office of  
Publications

EXTENSION DIGEST

March 1, 1944  
For Period  
February 15 - February 29

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 15 - SEED TREATMENT INCREASES GRAIN YIELDS. -- Substantial increases in small grain yields can be expected when seed is treated before planting, according to results of experiments by M. B. Moore and other members of the division of plant pathology at University Farm. Treated seed often came up sooner and made a heavier stand, but results in final yields were most startling. In the barley tests last year the treated plots averaged 4 bushels per acre more than the untreated plots. In tests running over a period of years, increases in flax amounted to about 1/2 bushel, in wheat and barley 1 1/2 bushels, and in oats 4 bushels per acre. In 12 different seed lots of corn, treatment increased yields all the way from 0 to 41 per cent, the average being 14 per cent. Recommended materials for seed treatment are 1/2 oz. of New Improved Ceresan per bushel of wheat, oats, barley and flax, and 1 1/2 oz. of either Semesan Jr. or Barbak per bushel of corn.

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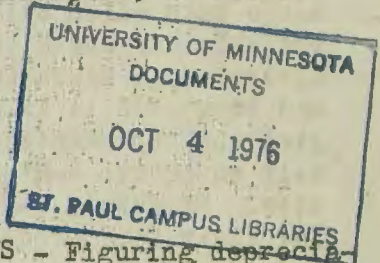
- February 17 - VICTORY GARDEN CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS
- February 21 - WESTERN LAMB FEEDING SHOWS HELD
- February 21 - 13 COMPETE IN 4-H RADIO CONTEST FINALS
- February 24 - HORTICULTURE SHORT COURSE MARCH 22-24

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February 24 - HOW TO FIGURE DEPRECIATION FOR INCOME TAX RETURNS - Figuring depreciation for income tax purposes may be a headache to many farm people, but it will pay to take time out to understand it, says S. B. Cleland, extension economist at University Farm. Depreciation of farm buildings, machinery and purchased draft or breeding livestock is a legitimate deduction in computing net farm profit for income tax purposes. The best way to calculate depreciation is to divide the purchase price by the estimated years of life to determine the annual charge. Depreciation should be claimed at a constant rate from year to year until the original cost has been recovered, a major repair is made, or until permission is received from the Collector of Internal Revenue to make a change. Items purchased second-hand are depreciated from the second-hand price. The same holds true for depreciation on farm buildings. Depreciation dates from the time the present owner acquired the item, not from the date it was built or bought new. Failure to claim depreciation on an item in prior years does not entitle individuals to claim prior depreciation during the present year. On farm buildings depreciation is figured from the date the farm is bought, not from the date when they were built.

February 24 - USE CERTIFIED POTATO SEED, ADVISES ROSE - Farmers can be sure of getting a better potato crop by using certified seed instead of local stocks that may have "run out," says R. C. Rose, plant pathologist at University Farm. Virus diseases such as spindle tuber, mosaic, yellow dwarf and leaf roll are often present in table stock or garden crops. Seed which is used from a bin of these potatoes may carry enough infection to reduce the vigor of the crop the second year. Potato growers who use certified seed are not taking any chances with infection or reduced yield because of poor seed. Certified seed growers are required to pull out all infected plants early (over)

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.



in the season. Their fields, which are inspected by state representatives to see that all diseases are kept under control, must meet the health requirements set up by the State Department of Agriculture. Lists of growers selling certified potato seed may be obtained by writing A. G. Tolaas, Seed Potato Certification, University Farm, St. Paul.

February 24 - MILLER APPEALS TO HOG RAISERS - Calling attention to recent statements by military and lend-lease officials that pork products will be badly needed to meet wartime food demands in late 1944 and 1945, Paul E. Miller, director of the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service, appealed today to hog raisers to keep their pork producing plants in good shape in spite of the handicaps they have been up against in recent months. While a reduction of around 11 per cent in 1944 is suggested in state goals to keep the livestock feed situation in better balance, it would be a serious setback to the war food program to have too many efficient Minnesota producers go out of the hog business this year, Miller declared. Recent surveys indicate intentions to reduce considerably more than 11 per cent. Already steps have been taken by the Minnesota Pork Producers' association to petition the government for changes which may correct the most troublesome inequalities that have plagued the hog industry this past winter. While awaiting action on these recommendations, the swine grower would be wise to keep his plant working as efficiently as possible.

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February 28 - 4-H MOBILIZATION WEEK MARCH 4-12

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February 29 - MINNESOTA 4-H'ERS NAME LIBERTY SHIP - A Minnesota 4-H' girl, speaking for this state's 50,000 4-H members and 8,000 leaders, today christened a Liberty cargo ship which slid down the ways in the Kaiser shipyards at Richmond, California. The ship was named the Willet M. Hays after one of Minnesota's pioneer leaders in agricultural education and research, a member of the University of Minnesota staff and from 1905 to 1913 assistant secretary of agriculture in Washington, D. C. The girl who represented Minnesota in the launching is Edith Johnson Ek of Parkville, herself an active 4-H'er for 11 years and later 4-H club agent in Cass and Itasca counties. Minnesota 4-H'ers were given the honor of naming a Liberty ship as a reward for their food production record in 1943.

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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 12-13 - School of Agriculture Alumni Reunions
- 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.

BROODER HOUSES by Cora Cooke. Extension Bulletin 198 (Revised June, 1943). Twelve pages. Illustrated. Important factors to consider in building brooder houses. Permanent and portable brooder houses also discussed.

GROWING RED RASPBERRIES FOR MARKET by W. G. Brierley and J. D. Winter. Extension Bulletin 199 (Revised June, 1943). Sixteen pages. Illustrated. Suggested management practices to help maintain the vigor and yield of raspberry fields and enable the grower to handle the crop to best advantage.

STUDIES OF SEMEN AND SEMEN PRODUCTION by R.E. Comstock, W.W. Green, L.M. Winters, and A.W. Nordskog. Technical Bulletin 162. (June, 1943) Fifty-six pages. A study of various methods of evaluating semen and some factors affecting semen production.

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