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

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April 15, 1944  
For Period  
April 1 - April 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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April 1 - MORE MACHINERY FOR FARMERS IN 1944

April 4 - RURAL YOUTH HOLD DISTRICT CONFERENCES

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April 5 - COOKE URGES CAREFUL POULTRY MANAGEMENT - Higher feed costs and lower returns from eggs put a special premium on careful poultry management, says Cora Cooke, extension poultry specialist at University Farm. The poultryman who can cut down losses and wastes can keep up the needed margin of profit much longer than the operator whose losses are high. In the laying flock wastes can be eliminated by spotting the hens that quit laying and disposing of them promptly without letting them run up a board bill. Chicks which die at any time after the first feeding represent feed that is a total loss. Good chicks from blood-tested stock, raised in clean quarters without overcrowding and fed a full ration are most economical of feed, Miss Cooke says, because there is little or no waste. One of the best ways of saving feed during the summer is to have plenty of green pasture for the growing pullets and cockerels. The saving can be 10 per cent or more if the pasture is kept green and never permitted to grow rank.

April 6 - PRACTISE SOW TESTING, ZAVORAL ADVISES - Keeping production records on sows is one way of increasing efficiency in hog raising to counteract price levels on feed, says H. G. Zavoral, extension animal husbandman at University Farm. He points out that there is a big difference in the number of pigs raised per sow, and that this margin often means the difference between profit and loss. By practising sow testing for a number of years, a farmer should be able to produce 100 pounds of pork on less feed and more pork per sow, says Zavoral. He suggests: ear-notching each litter of pigs shortly after farrowing; making a record for each litter of date of farrow, sire and dam and number of pigs living of each sex; weighing the litters separately at 56 days of age; culling sows from the herd on the basis of weights of litters they produced; selecting gilts for breeding purposes from the heaviest litters. The difference in weights of litters will surprise many a producer, says Zavoral. The strong, big pigs have a better chance of survival under this system, will be heavier at marketing time, and will produce 100 pounds of pork on less feed in a shorter time.

April 12 - CLEAN UP GARDEN AND PREVENT PLANT DISEASES - Cleaning up the garden now will help prevent plant diseases and save a lot of time and trouble later, says Carl J. Eide, plant pathologist at University Farm. As a general safety measure, get rid of all the plant refuse, he advises. Many of the fungi and bacteria that cause plant diseases nest over winter in last season's plant refuse. Burning the debris is the surest way to kill these fungi and bacteria. Changing the location of crops in the garden from year to year is another preventive against plant diseases. Some of the diseases of peas and cabbage, as well as anthracnose and bacterial blight of beans, prevalent last year, can be avoided by planting western grown seed instead of seed saved from last year's plants. Diseases can be carried by the seed if the plants on which they grew were infected. Proper soil fertilization will also help control diseases.

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.

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April 12 - KEEP UP MILK PRODUCTION WITH SUDAN GRASS - Five to 10 acres of Sudan grass, ready for the cows just as the bluegrass begins to fall along toward the middle of July, is just about the best insurance that the dairyman can have against a serious drop in his cream or milk check this summer. In order to have the emergency pasture ready when needed, it is necessary to make plans for it during the spring planting. M. L. Armour, extension agronomist at University Farm, suggests early June as the best time for planting. The Sudan grass would then be 14 to 18 inches high by the time it is needed for feed around July 10 to 15. It is best to get seed early and prepare a seedbed as for corn. Sudan does not do well on swampy ground but will grow vigorously on most soils suited for farm crops. Thirty to 35 pounds per acre should be seeded. It is possible to plow up rye or sweet clover pasture and work it up in time for Sudan. Many farmers also use it on land that has been fallowed through the spring months for weed control. Best feature of the crop is that it grows rapidly and provides an abundance of feed during the hot summer months when lack of feed ordinarily reduces dairy production drastically.

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April 12 - BORAX IN THE CONTROL OF NOXIOUS WEEDS

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April 13 - PAMPHLET ON CUSTOM RATES FOR FARM OPERATIONS - Results of a study of custom rates on Minnesota farms have been published in pamphlet form as a guide to those hiring or doing custom work this spring, summer and fall. Rates given in Pamphlet 134, "Custom Rates for Farm Operations," by George A. Pond, University Farm economist, cover not only the use of the implement involved but also the type of power used and the manpower furnished when work is done on this basis.

April 13 - EDWIN A HANSON, EXTENSION DAIRYMAN, DIES - Edwin A. Hanson, 51, who has been a leader in Minnesota dairy improvement programs for more than 20 years, died Thursday at the home of his sister, Mrs. Carl Sondegard of Albert Lea. Hanson had been active in his work until last fall when illness forced him to take a leave of absence from his duties as assistant professor and extension dairyman at the University of Minnesota. Hanson was widely known among dairymen of Minnesota and adjoining states. He pioneered in the organization of cow testing and dairy herd improvement associations and was frequently called on to judge dairy cattle at agricultural fairs. As specialist with the Agricultural Extension Service, he also had an important part in teaching dairy improvement to 4-H members. His travels in behalf of dairy programs took him into every community in Minnesota. He was one of the authors of "Feeding the Dairy Herd," most widely used handbook of dairy management in this state. He joined the extension staff as dairyman in 1922 and spent 22 years working in that capacity.

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

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#### DATES TO REMEMBER

May 4-6 - High School Congress  
May 5-6 - Editors' Short Course  
May 11-13 - Beekeepers' Short Course  
May 17-20 - Sawmillers' and Loggers' Short Course at Cloquet

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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

GROWING CURRANTS AND GOOSEBERRIES IN MINNESOTA by E. M. Hunt. Extension Folder 123 (April 1944). Six pages. Illustrated. Planting, pruning and cultivation suggestions for currants and gooseberries. Recommended varieties. Suggested spray program.

VEGETABLE GARDENING by A. E. Hutchins. Extension Bulletin 174 (Revised April 1944). Thirty-two pages. Illustrated. A comprehensive manual on gardening, including planting tables and recommended varieties of vegetables. Sections on insect pests and common diseases of garden vegetables.

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