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

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October 16, 1944
For period
September 28-October 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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September 28 - BOUNTY FOR BARBERRY - October and November are two of the most favorable months for discovering the rust-susceptible barberry bush which has a price on its head in 75 Minnesota counties, says L. W. Melander, state leader of barberry eradication. He points out that this outlaw barberry stays green longer than most other shrubs and can be spotted easily in the late fall by persons roaming the countryside. Hunters and hikers or 4-H members and school children making a project of barberry hunting can earn bounties in most Minnesota counties by learning to recognize this shrub and reporting discoveries to county authorities. The shrub is known to be host to stem rusts that cause great destruction to wheat, barley, oats, and rye. Beltrami county is the most recent to announce a bounty for barberry discovery.

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- October 3 - GARDENERS AND FARMERS PRINCIPAL USERS OF FROZEN FOOD LOCKERS
- October 3 - ANIMAL NUTRITION SHORT COURSE FOR FEED DEALERS OCTOBER 30-31
- October 3 - GARDEN FORUM FEATURE OF HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
- October 5 - CREAM OF 4-H MEAT CROP AT JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW
- October 5 - ANDERSON GIVES SUGGESTIONS ON FARM FIRE PREVENTION
- October 5 - MINNESOTA COUNTIES WELL REPRESENTED AT INCOME TAX SHORT COURSE
- October 10 - FARM AND HOME WEEK TO BE HELD IN JANUARY
- October 10 - SHORT COURSE FOR VETERINARIANS NOVEMBER 1 AND 2
- October 10 - PORK PRODUCED WITH LESS GRAIN BY HOGGING-OFF CORN

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October 10 - DOWELL MAKES STUDY OF PRICE TRENDS OF PUREBRED CATTLE - Buyers of purebred beef or dairy animals should remind themselves that an animal is worth what it will earn during its productive life, plus its slaughter value, says Austin A. Dowell, professor of agricultural economics at University Farm, who has recently completed a nation-wide study of price trends during a period which includes both wars. He concludes that the true value of a purebred breeding animal is likely to differ from its sale price during the peak of a boom or the bottom of a depression. The Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station has incorporated the findings of Dr. Dowell's study in Bulletin 380, "Trends in Prices of Purebred Cattle," just off the press. The author finds a close similarity between the purebred cattle prices of the last few years and those of World War I. Beef cattle have shown a slightly lower rate of increase during this war, while dairy cattle have moved upward somewhat faster. "Past experience suggests that those who are already engaged in the breeding of purebred livestock will do well to avoid the temptation to expand operations during the boom or to buy or sell on credit," says Dr. Dowell. "Farmers and others with modest incomes who look forward to joining the ranks of the purebred cattle breeding fraternity should do so on a conservative basis, or perhaps set aside surplus cash now and await a more favorable time to launch upon such a career."

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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.



October 11 - WINTER PROTECTION FOR RASPBERRIES AND STRAWBERRIES - Raspberries and strawberries will need final attention before they are ready for another season of typical Minnesota weather. With the uncertainty that accompanies the wintry weather, farmers and gardeners are urged by T. S. Weir, horticulturist at University Farm, to take no chances on allowing the berry plants to shift for themselves. Weir says it doesn't pay to be too generous with protection when getting the strawberries set for the dormant season. Cool weather and light frosts are beneficial in helping the plants to become acclimated to the coming cold weather. The three- or four-inch mulch of straw, marsh grass or other coarse material should not be put on until colder than 20-degree weather is in prospect. It's good insurance for the 1945 crop to bend raspberry canes over and cover them with dirt, says Weir, though some raspberry varieties will withstand the ordinary winters in certain parts of the state. All old canes should be removed this fall and weaker canes thinned. Growing canes should not be cut back till next spring.

October 11 - SELF-FEEDING BROOD SOWS MAY REDUCE LABOR COSTS - Self-feeding brood sows may be the answer to reducing labor costs in caring for the breeding herd this winter, says E. F. Ferrin of the animal husbandry division at University Farm. Though this system of feeding is not yet thoroughly tried and proven, Ferrin says that preliminary experiments at University Farm indicate considerable merit for it. In an experiment designed to compare self-feeding with hand-feeding, two groups of gilts were fed comparable rations to test out the two methods. The hand-fed group was given a ration consisting of 67 per cent ground yellow corn, 26 per cent ground oats, and 7 per cent dry rendered tankage. The amount of feed was regulated in such a way that the gilts gained about a pound a day throughout the gestation period. They were provided with good leafy alfalfa fed in a rack. A mineral mixture was self-fed. In self-feeding the other group of gilts, a bulky ration was used to limit the intake of fattening feeds. For the first 49 days of the feeding period a ration consisting of 53 per cent ground yellow corn, 20 per cent ground oats, 20 per cent alfalfa meal, and 7 per cent tankage was self-fed. Since this resulted in an average daily gain of one and a half pounds, the amount of corn was cut down to 33 per cent, oats and alfalfa increased to 30 per cent, and tankage held at 7 per cent. For the remainder of the gestation period there was a satisfactory rate of gain. In comparing the results of these two methods of feeding, Ferrin found no appreciable advantage for either one from the standpoint of condition of the sows at farrowing time and after weaning of the litters. Results from the standpoint of production were also comparable when gauged by size of litters, weight of pigs at birth and at 56 days. Ferrin cautioned, however, that success with self-feeding brood sows depends on making a suitable mixture of feeds which must be bulky to avoid too rapid gains. He said that including 20 to 25 per cent alfalfa meal is quite essential, or at least highly desirable. Self-feeding, he said, may be justified by the step-up in alfalfa consumption, since alfalfa is a rich source of B vitamins needed for normal growth and reproduction.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

October 30-31 - Animal Nutrition Short Course
November 1-2 - Veterinary Short Course

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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

POSTWAR AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS by O. B. Jesness. First of new series of Station bulletins to be prepared on postwar agriculture. 24 pages. An appraisal of some of the factors which will affect postwar agriculture. Export and domestic market prospects, industrial outlets, adjustments in production, price relationship, land speculation and other subjects discussed.

TRENDS IN PRICES OF PUREBRED CATTLE by Austin A. Dowell. Station Bulletin 380 (June, 1944). 16 pages. Discussion of long-time price trends, factors affecting purebred beef and dairy cattle prices and prospects for the immediate future.