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ED Oct. 15-31, 1944

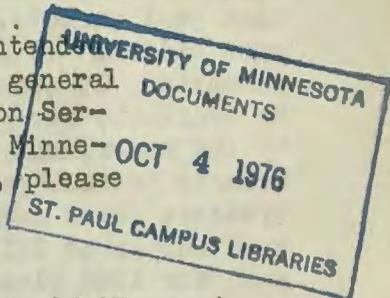
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA - U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY FARM ST. PAUL 8 MINNESOTA

Office of  
Publications

EXTENSION DIGEST

November 1, 1944  
For period  
October 15-October 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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October 18 - CORN BORER FOUND IN 16 MINNESOTA COUNTIES - Farmers in 16 Minnesota counties will soon be mobilized to wage war against the European corn borer, a newcomer among the corn crop pests in this part of the country. T. L. Aamodt, state entomologist, announced this week that the corn borer has now been found in 16 southeastern and south central Minnesota counties: Houston, Fillmore, Wabasha, Olmsted, Goodhue, Mower, Dodge, Dakota, Rice, Winona, Steele, Freeborn, Faribault, Waseca, Martin, and Ramsey. Although there is at present no evidence of serious damage by this insect, Aamodt warned that its rapid spread serves notice to Minnesota farmers that steps will have to be taken very soon to deal with it. A series of meetings will be held in corn borer infested counties in which plans will be made for a campaign to keep this pest in check.

October 18 - DON'T LEAVE COWS OUTSIDE DURING COOL FALL NIGHTS - It's better to sacrifice some time and effort in extra barn chores than to sacrifice production as the result of leaving cows out-of-doors these cool fall nights, says H. R. Searles, extension dairyman at University Farm. Even more serious than a temporary lull in production is that permanent injury may be done to the cow's udder as the result of exposure to cold and dampness. Fresh cows, particularly, need to be protected against these udder injuries. Although exposure doesn't cause mastitis, it may set up conditions favorable to infection by the organisms which cause mastitis. A large, full udder of a heavy-producing cow is a delicate organ, Searles points out, and is subject to injury when in contact with the cold, wet ground throughout the night. For this reason an ample amount of bedding is advised, particularly for the fresh cow.

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- OCTOBER 18 - ANIMAL NUTRITION SHORT COURSE FOR FEED DEALERS
- OCTOBER 18 - VETERINARY SHORT COURSE AT UNIVERSITY FARM NOVEMBER 1-2
- OCTOBER 18 - CORN PICKER ONE OF CHIEF CAUSES OF FARM ACCIDENTS
- OCTOBER 18 - SECOND TRAINING MEETING HELD FOR RURAL YOUTH LEADERS
- OCTOBER 18 - SUGGESTIONS ON CHOOSING A PATTERN FOR MAKEOVERS
- OCTOBER 24 - UNIVERSITY STAFF MEMBERS ATTEND LAND GRANT COLLEGE MEETING

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October 24 - HERBERT BOHANON NAMED STATE 4-H POTATO CHAMPION - State 4-H potato king this year is 14-year-old Herbert Bohanon of the Brookly Center 4-H club. Herbert's acre of Cobblers, Chios, Chippewas and Pontiacs produced 225 bushels. The state championship was determined on the basis of yield per acre, the exhibit, record kept and story written about the project. For three consecutive years Herbert has held the Hennepin county 4-H grand championship in potato raising. Last year he was runner-up in the state contest. Runner-up for this year's honors was Herman Skyberg, Polk county.

October 25 - NEW VARIETY OF HIGH-YIELDING BARLEY INTRODUCED - Mars, a new variety of barley introduced by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, promises to eliminate some of the hazards of barley growing which have brought about such poor results in recent years. Mars is an early, six-rowed, smooth-awned variety which has, in several years of trials, shown high-yielding ability. It has as strong straw as Wisconsin 38 and has proven to be three to four pounds per bushel heavier than that variety. Mars is resistant to stem rust and is moderately resistant to spot blotch. It is susceptible to scab and loose smut. On the basis of present information, it cannot be highly recommended as a malting variety. Mars seed will not be available for general distribution until 1946. Approximately 100 acres were grown by the experiment stations this past year and this seed will be supplied in limited amounts to seed producers in 1945 for further increase. The University plant breeders saved one year's time in developing this new variety by rushing the 1943 seed supply to California where it was grown in time to be shipped back to Minnesota for 1944 planting.

October 25 - WHAT'S AHEAD IN THE POULTRY BUSINESS? - Here are some of the conditions that will affect poultry earnings next year, says Cora Cooke, extension poultry specialist at University Farm. First, the poultry population is up again in spite of War Food Administration's appeal for a 10 to 15 per cent reduction. In spite of a 10 per cent decrease in number of chicks hatched last spring, September 1 reports show a 2 per cent increase in layers over last year and a 5 per cent increase in egg production for the first nine months of 1944 over the same period last year. This means that light culling and marketing of old hens has kept numbers at a high level. High feed costs and a large supply of layers indicate that this is no time to waste feed on late and immature pullets. Old hens that have stopped laying and hens in excess of the actual capacity of the house should get a one-way ride to market. Young roosters, too, should be disposed of since they will gain extra weight only at heavy cost. Since crowded dressing plants may interfere with the sale of poultry in the next few weeks, farmers and townspeople are urged to make use of cold storage lockers for young birds and canning with a pressure cooker for the old hens as a means of increasing the meat supply.

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NEW WAR BOARD AND AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE FILMS

WETLANDS - a one-reel, 16 mm. black and white sound film, of value in stimulating soil conservation. This picture shows where our 120 million acres of wetland are located. It points out that 31 million of these acres are suited to farming if properly drained and that 78 million acres are best left in their natural state for the production of timber and preservation of wildlife. A section of the film illustrates briefly the principal types of water control and methods of land drainage.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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

NEWTATCH WHEAT by E. R. Ausemus, E. C. Stakman, E. W. Hanson, W. F. Geddes and P. P. Merritt. Technical Bulletin 166 (June, 1944). 20 pages, illustrated. Development and testing of Newthatch, a hard red spring wheat, resembling Thatcher in appearance. Newthatch is the result of cooperative experiments conducted in Minnesota since 1907 by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering of the USDA and the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Stations, for the purpose of developing stem and leaf rust resistant varieties having desirable agronomic characters and excelling in milling and baking qualities. Yield trials discussed.

MANAGING THE DAIRY HERD FOR GREATER RETURNS by T. R. Nodland and G. A. Pond. Station Bulletin 378 (June, 1944). 24 pages. Discussion of factors causing variations in returns from dairy cattle and the value of records to increase dairy returns.

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