

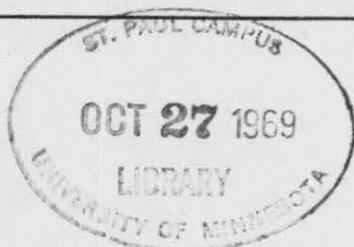
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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE <sup>(2)</sup>  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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# Radio News Briefs <sup>(3)</sup>

For A Growing Minnesota



(4) October 24, 1969

## Take a Fall Soil Sample

There's still time to take a soil sample this fall. Bill Fenster, University of Minnesota soils specialist, says farmers who take soil samples in fall avoid the rush in getting results back and don't have to take the chance of getting samples returned too late for spring planting. Fall testing also gives you a chance to plan what fertilizers are best to provide proper amounts of nutrients for top yields. Fenster says fall soil sampling makes it possible to apply these fertilizers in the fall when soils are in relatively good condition. Oftentimes it's difficult to get into the fields to apply fertilizer before planting time in the spring if the ground is wet.

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## Start Fall Beef Calves on a Performance Testing Program

The ideal time to start a beef performance testing program is at calving time. Charles Christians, livestock specialist at the University of Minnesota, says all calves should be identified with an ear tag and tattoo. A record of the birth date, sex, sire number and dam number should also be made. And at weaning time, calves should be weighed and graded in groups between 150 and 250 days of age. For more information on a good record keeping system, see your county extension agent about joining the Minnesota Beef Improvement Program.

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Treat Lawns to Prevent Snow Mold

Now's the time to apply a chemical spray to control snow mold on your lawn. Herbert Johnson, plant pathologist at the University of Minnesota says snow mold appeared last spring on most well-grown turf. Snow mold occurs in winter or early spring in wet, shaded areas or where snow is slow to melt. Johnson says the fungicide should be applied in late October or early November, or ideally, just before a permanent snow. Repeat the treatments during a midwinter thaw, but make sure you follow label directions carefully.

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Fall Dairy Management Tips

Fall is a time of feed changes for the dairy cow, and these changes should be made gradually to avoid digestion upsets. Bill Mudge, dairy specialist at the University of Minnesota, advises challenge feeding fall freshening cows with extra grain, then checking milk scales for results. Also, watch for spoilage in silage, and grind high moisture corn often to help prevent spoilage.

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Special Care for Dairy Heifers

Yearling dairy heifers still on fall pasture need some extra care. Bill Mudge, dairy specialist at the University of Minnesota, advises supplying hay as pasture fails to meet the heifers' needs. Springer heifers should be placed with the milking herd at least three to four weeks before calving so they can be fed extra grain and become familiar with herd routine.

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Make Shopping List with Grocery Store in Mind

If you're as busy as most homemakers, you're probably always looking for shortcuts to save time.

Mrs. Beverly Lundgren, assistant extension specialist in home economics at the University of Minnesota, has a shopping tip for you. When you make out your market list, arrange foods into groups, according to the layout of the grocery store where you shop. So if canned goods are first, put canned goods at the top of your grocery list. This will save time and steps in the store. Put perishables like dairy products and frozen foods at the end of the list to maintain their quality.

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It's Sweet Potato Time

That cold nip in the air means fall is here--and that's sweet potato time once again.

Grace Brill, extension nutritionist at the University of Minnesota, says that moist-type sweet potatoes, sometimes called yams, are the most common type. Look for clean, smooth, well-shaped, firm sweet potatoes with bright uniformly colored skins. Avoid those with obvious signs of decay. Although the remainder of the flesh looks normal, it may have a bad taste after you cut away the decayed portion.

Don't store sweet potatoes in the refrigerator.

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Soap or Detergent and Your Washer

When you add soap or detergent to your washer, use a standard measuring cup and follow directions for the correct amount. The amount of detergent needed is determined by the amount of water used and by the weight of the product. It varies with the type of washer--front or top loader--and the type of detergent. It's not based on the amount of suds formed, as in the case of soap.

Mrs. Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota, recommends you use 1½ cups of detergent for an average wash in a top-loader and about one-half cup for an average wash in a front-loader. For extra-large wash loads, heavy soil or extremely hard water, increase the amount of detergent.