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

Office of Publications

EXTENSION DIGEST

September 18, 1944
For period
August 15-September 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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August 15 - POTATO DUMPS SOURCE OF LATE BLIGHT INFECTION - Observations made throughout the state this past spring and summer have shown that growers in many communities have unknowingly provided excellent nurseries for late blight by carelessly dumping cull potatoes and bin scraps. Recognizing late blight as a serious threat to the potato crop in Minnesota, R. A. Trovatten, commissioner of agriculture, has requested four divisions of the State Department of Agriculture, Dairy and Food, to make plans to cooperate in the disposal of potato dumps next spring. Responsibility for this program has been placed with T. L. Aamodt, state entomologist; C. H. Schrader, director of the weed and seed division; A. G. Tolaas, in charge of seed potato certification; and Clarence Johnson, acting director of cold storage, marketing and produce inspection.

August 15 - CLELAND ADVISES PUTTING LATE PLANTED CORN INTO SILAGE - Put as much of the late-planted corn into silage as possible this year, advises S. B. Cleland, extension farm management specialist at University Farm. This may be better use of the corn in case of an early freeze than harvesting it as soft corn. If there is surplus silage, it can be carried to relieve a corresponding amount of good corn a year from now. To supplement their regular silo capacity, a great many farmers have found that they can use temporary silo structures. A slat fence silo works out to good advantage, or a trench silo if the lay of the land near the buildings is suitable. It is important that such a silo be ready in the event of an early frost. Extension Folders 47 and 49 give full instructions for building and using these emergency silos. Experience of many farmers has indicated that corn may be held in the silo for several years and still be just as satisfactory feed as when it was first put in.

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August 15 - INCREASE OF LIVESTOCK NUMBERS DEPLETES FEED RESERVES
August 15 - "SCREW THE BAND DOWN HARD," HOME CANNERS ADVISED
August 17 - CASES OF SLEEPING SICKNESS IN HORSES REPORTED IN STATE
August 17 - FLOCK SELECTING AND PULLORUM TESTING AGENTS' SHORT COURSE
August 17 - GROUPS URGED TO TAKE PART IN MILKWEED HARVEST
August 22 - A WELL MANAGED HERD OF HOGS SHOULD BE ASSET IN 1945
August 22 - POINTERS ON COOKING UTILITY GRADE BEEF

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August 22 - CLEAN OUT POTATO BINS FOR NEW CROP, URGES ROSE - Appearance of ring rot in potatoes in parts of Minnesota should be added incentive to growers to do an exceptionally good job of cleaning out potato bins for the new crop, says R. C. Rose, extension plant pathologist at University Farm. Because ring rot spreads rapidly and in a short time may damage a whole crop, Rose urges growers to do a thorough job of airing potato bins, scraping walls and floors to remove all organic matter and dirt and fumigating bins with bleaching powder and formaldehyde. These precautions are

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necessary in order to avoid contaminating disease-free lots of new potatoes brought into bins this year. Growers who intend to fumigate with bleaching powder and formaldehyde for the first time should write R. C. Rose, extension plant pathologist, University Farm, St. Paul 8, for specific instructions.

August 22 - SOYBEANS WILL MAKE GOOD HAY CROP - "Don't let wishful thinking rob you of a good hay crop and leave you with a poor bean crop" is the advice of George A. Pond, professor of agricultural economics, University Farm. Many of the soybeans were planted so late this year that they stand little chance of maturing into marketable beans unless we have an unusually late frost. If cut before frost, they will, however, make a palatable high-protein hay. Even with the guaranteed price of $1.84 to $2.04 per bushel for beans, a ton and a half to two tons of good hay will be worth more than the beans. Livestock specialists say that good soybean hay closely approaches alfalfa in feeding value. The beans should be cut with a binder as soon as the lower leaves turn brown, or in any event before frost, and the bundles shocked and stacked or hauled to the barn when dry.

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August 23 - FARM BUREAU WOMEN'S SHORT COURSE, SEPTEMBER 20-22
August 23 - MINNESOTA 4-H CONSERVATION CAMP, SEPTEMBER 14-17
August 23 - STATE DRAFT HORSE SHOW HELD IN ST. JAMES
August 29 - HORSE SHOW CHAMPIONS ANNOUNCED
August 29 - WINNERS OF 4-H COLT AND PIG SHOWS ANNOUNCED
August 29 - RAM SALE AND HAMPSHIRE SHEEP SHOW HELD
September 5 - OVER 100 4-H MEMBERS ATTEND CONSERVATION CAMP
September 5 - VISITORS' DAY AT UNIVERSITY FRUIT BREEDING FARM

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September 5 - HELP PREVENT CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF EGG CASES - Poultrymen can give real assistance to egg handlers in meeting a critical shortage of egg cases which will grow progressively worse during the next few months, says Cora Cooke, extension poultry specialist at University Farm. To avoid a serious shortage next winter and spring: (1) Take good care of old wooden egg cases and keep them in service as long as possible. (2) Place orders now for new fiber cases needed for the 1945 peak in egg production.

September 5 - DON'T PICK MILKWEED PODS TOO SOON - Warning comes from Frank Thackery, University Farm, St. Paul, who is state supervisor of the milkweed floss harvesting program, that the floss will be rendered useless if it is picked too soon. Thackery says the pods should not be picked until they are ripe. Seeds in ripe pods are brown. If left too long, the pods will break and allow the floss to scatter. Milkweed floss must be collected in mesh bags provided for the purpose. Collectors are advised to contact school superintendents, Boy Scout leaders and county agricultural agents for details on the harvesting program in each county. Floss from the once useless milkweed is now badly needed to substitute for kapok in navy life jackets.

September 7 - ADJUST CATTLE NUMBERS TO AVAILABLE FEED SUPPLIES - Now is the time to check the available feed supply against livestock numbers that are to be carried thru winter, says S. B. Cleland, extension economist in farm management at University Farm. With nearly a million tons less roughage in Minnesota's mows and stacks this year than last and with cattle numbers at an all-time high, the outlook for liberal winter rations on many farms is discouraging, Cleland says. Much of the late-planted corn, which will have to be converted into roughage instead of grain, will be used to bolster meager supplies of hay. However, corn, fed either as fodder or as silage, is low in protein and will need to be supported by grain and high-protein concentrates in order to bring rations up to a reasonable standard. With the prospect of high-priced hay and grain, and since both are difficult to get, many farmers are now culling their herds as a means of adjusting cattle numbers to available roughage supplies.

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September 8 - HOW TO PREVENT PEACHES FROM TURNING DARK WHEN CANNING
September 11 - VARIABLE OAK LEAF CATERPILLAR DENUDING FOREST TREES
September 11 - RAM SALE AND EXCHANGE DAYS TO BE HELD

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September 11 - SISTER KENNY TO SPEAK TO FARM BUREAU WOMEN - Sister Elizabeth Kenny, founder of the Kenny infantile paralysis treatment, will be headline speaker at the short course for Farm Bureau women which opens at University Farm, September 20. Sister Kenny will give the address at the annual banquet on Thursday evening at the Curtis Hotel, Minneapolis. Except for the banquet, all sessions will be held at University Farm. Attending the short course will be Farm Bureau women who have been chosen in positions of leadership in the educational and improvement programs of their home communities. All Minnesota counties will be represented.

September 13 - DIG POTATOES WHEN LEAVES AND STEMS ARE DEAD - Late blight disease in potatoes will continue its destructive work thru winter if proper precautions are not taken in harvesting, says C. J. Eide, plant pathologist at University Farm. The late blight organism is a common cause of tuber rot which occurs while potatoes are in storage. Greatest danger of infecting tubers comes when leaves and vines are still green and when digging is done in cool, damp weather. Blight spores from the leaves and stems may then infect the tubers, lodging in scratches and bruises and causing considerable decay. Delaying digging until both the leaves and stems are dry or dead is the best way to minimize the danger. For the home gardener a dry, sunny day is best for digging. Getting tubers dry before putting them into storage and providing good ventilation in storage will further reduce losses from decay.

September 13 - SOYBEANS MAKE GOOD HAY - Farmers who are looking forward to profitable dairy production this winter need to check on quality as well as the quantity of their roughage. Many of the emergency roughage crops that will be used this winter are low in proteins, minerals and vitamins and thus will complicate the problem of providing good milk-producing rations. The most serious roughage problem is likely to be found on farms with a small supply of good legume hay. Where this quality and quantity roughage problem exists, careful consideration should be given to utilization of any soybeans which are being grown. Being legumes, soybeans are about equal to alfalfa in protein content and, if properly cured, also carry a satisfactory vitamin content. Because many fields were planted late, it is doubtful whether they can be depended upon for a crop of ripe beans. A ton and a half of good hay from an acre may be worth considerably more next spring than a few bushels of poorly matured beans. Soybeans, however, must be cut early. A killing frost will cause the leaves to drop and thus ruin the crop for hay.

September 13 - GOOD POULTRY HOUSING NECESSARY TO BETTER EGG PRODUCTION - Poor housing is often the bottleneck for better per-hen production, says H. J. Sloan, professor of poultry husbandry at University Farm. Many flocks are still being housed in makeshift buildings. The primary need in most unsatisfactory poultry houses, according to Sloan, is for better insulation. No system of ventilation will function properly without adequate insulation throughout the house. A properly insulated house will generally lend itself readily to any one of several approved systems of ventilation. Reasonable warmth and dryness are two of the main essentials of poultry housing. Uninsulated walls and ceilings are neither warm nor dry. Double walls with a fill make the best insulation, and the same principle can be applied to ceilings of shed-roof type structures. While the straw loft house has proved satisfactory under most Minnesota conditions, any other system which will take off the moisture-laden air at the proper rate without chilling the house or causing drafts will help keep conditions suitable for winter egg production.

September 13 - FARMERS URGED TO HARVEST CROP IN WOODLOT - Forests, woodlots and even farm windbreaks hold much good raw material badly needed during wartime, says Parker O. Anderson, extension forester at University Farm. Few farmers, he declares, realize the value of the wood that can be taken out of a woodlot even if only mature trees are cut, plus dead, diseased or otherwise undesirable stock. Dead wood and undesirable trees can help to ease the fuel shortage. Trees mature enough to cut for lumber can be sawed and cured locally to provide needed repair on the farm and framing lumber for buildings. Posts are also a perennial need. The commercial demand for timber and pulpwood now is the greatest it has ever been and prices are favorable. Farmers who want to cut for sale to commercial concerns should arrange for a market before they cut extensively.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

September 18-22 - Flock Selecting Agents' and Pullorum Testing Short Course
September 20-22 - Farm Bureau Women's Short Course
September 27-28 - Symposium for Butter Manufacturers
September 27 - Corn Field Day, Crookston Experiment Station
September 28 - Corn Field Day, Morris Experiment Station
October 2 - Corn Field Day, Morris Experiment Station
October 3 - Swine Feeders' Day, Redwood Falls
October 5 - Swine Feeders' Day, Albert Lea
October 9-13 - Farm Income Tax Short Course, Lowry Hotel, St. Paul
October 30-31 - Animal Nutrition 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.

RAT CONTROL by H. L. Parten. Extension Folder 31 (revised June, 1944). How to keep rats away from the farm. Recommended baits and poisons.

University Farm