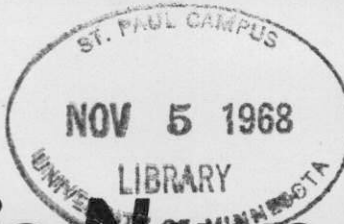


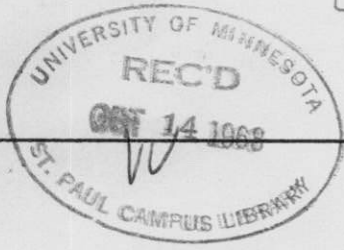
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



# Radio News Briefs

For A Growing Minnesota

October 11, 1968



## Check for Barren Corn Stalks

Barren corn stalks cost as much to produce as well formed ears. Dale Hicks, agronomist at the University of Minnesota, says there can be several reasons for these barren stalks.

\* Your fertility may be inadequate or out-of-balance. Or, weather conditions such as drought, floods, hail or excessive heat during critical times such as during corn pollination can cause barren stalks.

\* Another cause can be insect or disease attack. Smut sometimes causes barrenness when it occurs on the upper leaves, ear shoot or tassel.

\* Too high or too low plant populations can be another cause of barren corn stalks.

Hicks says if you can find the problem this year, perhaps you can prevent barren stalks in next year's corn crop.

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## Accurate Records Needed to Identify Top Beef Animals

A long range breeding program is essential for purebred beef breeders to make genetic improvements in their herds. Charles Christians, livestock specialist at the University of Minnesota, says the rate of genetic improvement is relatively slow with beef cattle, so you can't afford to make mistakes.

Christians says a good breeding program consists of selecting top bulls and mating them to the best cows available. Accurate records are needed to identify top animals. Joining the Minnesota Beef Improvement Association can help you improve your livestock breeding program through a good record keeping program. For more information, see your county agent or write to Charles Christians, 101 Peters Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota. Zip code 55101.

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Weedy Soybeans Can be Storage Problem

Weedy soybeans can present a problem when it comes to storage. Dale Hicks, agronomist at the University of Minnesota, says a properly adjusted combine will help keep some of the weedy green material out of the beans. But the beans will also absorb moisture from the weedy material, so extra precautions are needed so the beans don't mold during storage. Hicks says letting the beans sit in a wagon during a sunny day, or stirring and agitating them after they're in the bin will help relieve the moisture problem.

\* \* \* \*

Dairy Testing Programs Now Designated Either Official or Non-official

Dairy testing programs have new names. Two main types of dairy records have been designated, official and non-official. Ralph Wayne, dairy specialist at the University of Minnesota, says the program formerly known as Standard DHIA will now be officially known as Official DHI. The DHIR program will be known as Official DHIR. All other records will be known as non-official records, such as Non-official and Owner-Sampler.

\* \* \* \*

Time to Clean Up the Garden

Fall is a good time to clean up your garden. University of Minnesota horticulturists say if you've had disease and insect problems, remove all the trash and destroy it by burning. At the same time, dig the soil to loosen it and destroy any insects which tend to winter over in the garden soil.

\* \* \* \*

School Lunch Program Aids Needy Children

This week, October 13-19, marks the twenty-second year of the Federal School Lunch Program. Since 1946, federal, state, and local appropriations have made it possible to serve meals, without cost or at a reduced price, to children who are unable to pay the full cost. At present nearly 19 million children benefit from the School Lunch Program.

\* \* \* \*

Knowing Winter Squash

Winter squash is plentiful on the market now. To help you select squash University of Minnesota extension horticulturist Orrin C. Turnquist gives these descriptions of the more common varieties of winter squash.

The Buttercup variety is the most popular. It is the highest-quality squash for baking, with a small seed cavity and a thick, attractive orange flesh. It is turban-shaped and green in color. It may have light green stripes and a cap of light green. The Buttercup has a thicker rind than other varieties and is a good keeper.

The Hubbard variety of winter squash is nine to twelve inches in diameter. It is round and tapers to points at both ends. It usually has a warted, ridged appearance. The skin of the Hubbard is orange, green or blue gray in color and the flesh is light orange.

\* \* \* \*

Checking Bartlett Pears for Quality

Bartlett pears will continue to be on the market through November. If you like to make salads with cottage cheese and pears, you should choose your pears carefully. University of Minnesota extension nutritionists say if you find "U. S. No. 1" on the label of pre-packaged pears, you're getting good quality fruit.

You should select Bartletts with color ranging from pale to rich yellow. Look for pears that have already begun to soften slightly. Be careful not to pick pears that are shriveled or dull-appearing or those with soft spots on the blossom end and sides. If there is a russeting on the surface, don't worry about it, because it won't affect the eating quality.