



Radio News Briefs

For A Growing Minnesota

December 19, 1969

Deduct All Legal Business Expenses

Don't overlook deductible business expenses when you estimate and record your tax liability. Charles Cuykendall, farm management specialist at the University of Minnesota, says some commonly overlooked expenses include farm and breed organization dues--fees for record keeping associations--tax consultants--management help--and fees for accountants. Farm magazine subscriptions--record books--business safe deposit boxes--and business telephone calls are also deductible.

Cuykendall says livestock producers should remember to deduct exhibiting expenses--the expense of an office or office space in the home--farm business advertising--and business postage and stationery. Consult the 1970 Farmer's Tax Guide for a more complete listing of deductible farm business expenses. The guide is available from your county extension office.

* * * *

Gasoline Tax Credit

Federal and state gas tax refunds must be reported on Federal Schedule F in the year the payment is received. University of Minnesota economist Charles Cuykendall says the law provides for a tax credit of 4 cents a gallon on gasoline used on a farm for farming purposes. You may also qualify for a 2 cents a gallon credit or refund on gasoline used other than as fuel in a highway motor vehicle. This includes gasoline used to operate items such as power lawn mowers, motorboats or airplanes. Ask your county extension agent for a copy of the 1970 Farmer's Tax Guide for further information.

* * * *

Keep Antibiotics Out of Milk

Milk from cows treated with antibiotics must be withheld from shipment for at least 72 hours unless the label states otherwise. Vern Packard, dairy industries specialist at the University of Minnesota, reminds farmers that any detectable antibiotic is too much, since the Federal Food and Drug Administration requires a zero tolerance on drugs in milk. Read the label on the container carefully to determine withholding times.

* * * *

Well-Grown Dairy Heifers Have Fewer Calving Problems

Dairy heifers that receive poor management and nutrition are more apt to have calving problems. Joe Conlin, dairy specialist at the University of Minnesota, says first-calf heifers that experience calving problems may have been bred too young, or they may have been poorly fed and undergrown. Conlin says a poorly grown heifer may be old enough to breed, but her body growth has been retarded due to poor nutrition, parasites or disease. As a result, the birth canal is reduced and the likelihood of difficult calvings is increased.

* * * *

Pruning Hardwood Stands is Involved Problem

Get professional advice before you prune hardwood stands. Bill Miles, forestry specialist at the University of Minnesota, says hardwood stands usually contain several species of varying ages, and he suggests contacting your local forester for advice. Some hardwood species are suited for high value products and are worth more than other species, and some species don't respond well to pruning.

* * * *

Safety in Your Home

If you examined your house, how safe would it be? You should do everything you can to insure safety in your home. Here's one suggestion to make your house safer. Carpeting or individual tread mats on stairs are safety factors and prevent falls only if they're kept in good repair. Loosened carpet or a worn tread may be more dangerous than the bare floor. So don't wait until an accident occurs, but take measures to prevent it now.

* * * *

Hosiery Care

With today's leg excitement, you now spend considerable time making hosiery selections. This year, for example, styles are featuring dramatic new colors, novel patterns and wild textures, all with improved stretch, cling and fit. There are also many new panty-hose variations.

Your hosiery wardrobe is expensive, so take care of it. Extension clothing specialists at the University of Minnesota advise laundering everything in warm sudsy water after each wearing. Rinse and squeeze gently, never wring or twist. Hang hosiery over a terry cloth towel to dry.

* * * *

Selecting Frozen Green Beans

If you're selecting frozen green beans, remember that the carton should be clean and firm, not torn, crushed or covered with ice or frost. Mrs. Shirley Munson, home economist in the department of horticultural science at the University of Minnesota, says these are indications that the package may have been thawed and refrozen.

* * * *