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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Radio News Briefs

For A Growing Minnesota

September 26, 1969

Landowners: Order Trees Early

You're more apt to get the kinds and amounts of trees you desire if you order early. Marvin Smith, forestry specialist at the University of Minnesota, says Minnesota landowners may make their tree applications to the State Division of Lands and Forestry. The planting stock is grown and distributed for the reforestation of farm woodlands, windbreaks, shelterbelts, soil and water conservation and for permanent food and cover for wildlife. But Smith emphasizes that trees are not furnished for ornamental purposes. See your county extension agent, state district forester, SCS or ASCS office for tree application orders.

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Evaluate Forage Quality

Evaluate the quality of your forage supply -- then plan ahead for next year's program. Oliver Strand, agronomist at the University of Minnesota, advises having representative samples of forages tested for digestible protein and fiber content so that total digestible nutrient (or TDN) content can be evaluated. This can be a big aid in balancing livestock rations.

Strand says time of cutting is the greatest factor involved in producing high quality hay. Alfalfa should be cut before one-tenth bloom, which means cutting first crop by the first part of June in most of Minnesota. Each day you delay after June 1 results in a higher fiber content and lower intake and digestibility by livestock.

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Determine Lime Needs on Corn and Soybeans.

Test your soil to determine lime needs for corn and soybeans. University of Minnesota soil scientists say if alfalfa is not in the cropping system, pH levels of 6.0 or above are adequate without liming. If the soil pH is below 6.0, then apply lime at the rates needed to reach a soil pH of 6.5. See your county extension agent for more information.

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Make Plans for Calf Housing

Dairy calves housed in dry, well-ventilated buildings separate from the main milking barn are usually more thrifty and grow faster. Ralph Wayne, dairy specialist at the University of Minnesota, says calves isolated away from the milking herd are less apt to pick up infectious diseases. It's often easier to keep calves dry and out of drafts when they're in separate housing.

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Lime Improves Yields and Crop Quality

Lime improves crops by promoting desirable biological activity, which results in higher yields and better quality. University of Minnesota soil scientists say bacteria in legume root nodules supply nitrogen to legume crops in plentiful quantities if soil acidity is reduced enough.

Other types of bacteria step up their activity in rotting residues and soil organic matter if adequate lime is present. Dolomitic lime also supplies calcium and magnesium, and liming acid soils will make soil phosphorus more available to plants. For more information on liming, ask your county extension agent for a copy of Soils Fact Sheet No. 10 entitled "Lime Needs in Minnesota."

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Valencia Oranges

Abundant supplies of Valencia oranges will add a golden glow to Minnesota produce counters during September and October. Grace Brill, extension nutritionist at the University of Minnesota, suggests you look for firm and heavy oranges with fresh, bright-looking skin. Avoid very rough skin, dull, dry skin and spongy texture. Also avoid oranges with signs of decay shown by cuts or skin punctures, soft spots and discolored areas of the skin.

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Bacteria on Frozen Foods

If you're planning to freeze some foods, make sure the food and everything that touches it is clean. Mrs. Shirley Munson, home economist in the horticultural science department at the University of Minnesota, says freezing doesn't kill bacteria in food; it just stops them from multiplying. Once the food is thawed, the bacteria pick up where they left off. Mrs. Munson's advice: first, freeze only high-quality food. Second, handle all foods to be put in the freezer as little as possible, since bacteria are spread by handling.

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National 4-H Week October 5-11

October 5-11 is National 4-H Week for 3½ million 4-H'ers in the United States. 4-H is "Opportunity for All." 4-H means boys and girls learning new skills, gaining new knowledge and serving their communities and countries. More than 56,000 young people learned by doing this past year in Minnesota through year-round organized 4-H clubs in every county and through short-term programs. Station _____ salutes these boys and girls and the 13,000 adults in Minnesota serving as volunteer leaders, working to "make the best better" through 4-H.