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ED Dec 1-15, 1943

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

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E X T E N S I O N D I G E S T

December 15, 1943
For period
December 1 - December 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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December 1 - SHORTAGE OF HORSES AND MULES FORESEEN - A marked shortage of horses and mules in the United States within two to four years was forecast by A. L. Harvey, professor of animal husbandry at University Farm, who spoke at the annual meeting of the Horse and Mule Association of America at Chicago. In the west central section there is at present a sufficient number to take care of farm needs, but the decline in horse and mule populations during the past 25 years indicates the minimum number of horses and mules required for farm needs. Especially significant is the 50.8 per cent decline in Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. In addition to raising horses and mules for its own use, this section has been the reservoir for replacements in eastern and southern states. If Minnesota is representative of other midwest states, this section as well as the rest of the country is in a critical position as far as work stock replacements are concerned.

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December 1 - CHEESEMAKERS' SHORT COURSE DECEMBER 15.

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December 1 - HENDRICKSON WINS SADDLE AND SIRLOIN CLUB MEDAL.

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December 8 - AWARDS GIVEN AT AG CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY.

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December 8 - KEEP RECORDS FOR FUTURE INCOME TAX DECLARATION - Don't throw away any records you used in making your December 15 income tax declaration. Those papers will be indispensable in figuring the final tax on March 15, says S. B. Cleland, University Farm extension economist in farm management. Farmers will not be penalized for under- or overestimating their income tax, if their estimate of net income is not more than 33 1/3 per cent under actual amount. The farmer who pays too much will get credit toward the March payment, which will include the final settlement on the 1943 tax and a partial payment on the remainder of the 1942 tax. Any additional credit the farmer may have can go toward his 1944 settlement.

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December 14 - ANDERSON GIVES TIPS ON RENDERING FAT.

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December 14 - SECOND ANNUAL 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST.

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December 14 - DON'T MARKET HOGS UNDER 200 POUNDS - An appeal to keep all hogs under 200 pounds on the farm and away from South St. Paul and other markets was made to the farmers of Minnesota by Paul E. Miller, director of the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service, as the best answer to the disastrous market glut which means heavy losses to the farmer and the nation's meat supply each day it continues. Light pigs stampeding to market tend to wreck the government price support program and contribute to the present crisis. Higher feed costs with shortages in some areas, desire to shift feed to other livestock, uncertainty of transportation, and misunderstanding of the price support program are all contributing to the present

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, University of Minnesota, Agricultural Extension Service and U. S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating, Paul E. Miller, Director. Published in furtherance of Agriculture Extension Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914.

market jam and the resulting losses from delays in unloading as well as drastic price cuts on less desirable hogs reaching market. Under the present circumstances the hog raiser can do himself and his country a great favor by resolving to market all his hogs over 260 pounds and as far as possible under 270. The War Food Administration has set 200 to 270 pounds as the most desirable weight for getting the most pork for the least feed and has established a support price of \$13.75 per hundred, Chicago basis, and \$13.45 at South St. Paul, for such hogs. Packing companies are pledged to pay this price. If they fail to do so, the government subsidy is withheld. Since it is most profitable for everyone concerned to slaughter hogs at these prescribed weights, the packing industry running at full capacity does not want the smaller hogs. Farmers who send in small pigs receive a price below the support figure for the 200-270 pound hogs, and so they sustain a heavy loss. The tremendous disadvantage of marketing the lighter hog under present conditions was stressed by H. G. Zavoral, extension animal husbandman at University Farm. "Naturally, a farmer must watch feed costs very carefully," Zavoral says, "especially now when costs are rising and feed must be conserved. But there is no economy in sending to market a half-grown pig. Long-time records have shown that whenever the price of 100 pounds of hog will buy 11 bushels of corn, pork producers have prospered. The support price on 200-270 pound hogs permits purchase of corn at something over a dollar a bushel, but that margin dwindles rapidly when underweight pigs are sold at \$12 or less. Picking off for market the finished animals as soon as they get well above 200 pounds, while holding back the smaller animals for further feeding is always a good practice, and more so at the present time. This practice makes for orderly marketing and more meat per pound of feed."

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WEEKLY - TIMESAVERS FOR FARM AND HOME -- A weekly column of labor-saving tips supplied to county extension agents for local release.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Copies available on request from county extension office
or from Bulletin Room, University Farm, St. Paul 8, Minnesota.

THE MINNESOTA FARM OUTLOOK FOR 1944 by W. H. Dankers. Extension Pamphlet 130 (December, 1943). Eight pages. 1944 Food Production Program Series. Highlights of the 1944 outlook, with special emphasis on production and marketing.

GROW VICLAND, TAMA - BETTER OATS - Extension Pamphlet 129 (December, 1943). Four pages. Facts showing superiority of Vicland and Tama oats in yield and resistance to disease.

MATURITY RATINGS OF CORN HYBRIDS REGISTERED FOR SALE IN MINNESOTA IN 1943 by R. F. Crim, H. K. Hayes, R. O. Bridgford, R. S. Dunham, R. E. Hodgson, F. R. Inner, E. H. Rinke, and Y. S. Tsiang. Experiment Station Bulletin 374 (December, 1943). Fifteen pages. Tables showing maturity ratings of corn hybrids registered for sale in the five maturity zones in Minnesota.

SHEEP ON MINNESOTA FARMS by P. A. Anderson and W. E. Morris. Extension Bulletin 141 (Revised June 1943). Twenty-four pages. Illustrated. Care of sheep, growing and marketing wool, types and breeds of sheep discussed.

SATISFACTIONS IN LIVING by Edgar C. McVoy and Lowry Nelson. Experiment Station Bulletin 370 (June, 1943). Sixteen pages. Thirteen tables. Results of a survey of farm and village families in Isanti County.

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