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EDITOR'S COLUMN

Why the Editor Makes Mistakes

Getting news right is not an easy job. The news service of the New York state college of agriculture at Cornell university tells of an amateur editor who heard four versions of a fire and found that none of them was correct. The amateur was a woman who had written a good many things for the paper and who had consented to write the locals when the editor was taken sick.

"Of course it happened," she says, "that there was a fire in town that week. From three absolutely reliable persons I got three absolutely different stories. Finally I appealed to the chief and he gave me his version. His story did not agree with any of the others, but I thought if he didn't know, no one could, and so I wrote it up that way.

"Was it right? It was not. It so happened that a traveling man discovered the fire and turned in the alarm. The day after the paper came out he was in my husband's store telling about it.

"The wonder to me is the editor ever gets anything right. I'm through criticising."

Co-operative Buying Pays

Newspaper owners of southern Illinois have formed a co-operative organization for the purpose of purchasing supplies and are making a saving which is well worth while.

Looking for "Soft Spots"

The American Press says that mail order men have a third eye and keep it looking for soft spots where local merchants do not advertise. "Wherever it is found," says the Press, "through examination of local newspapers—and thousands of them are examined daily by the mail order people—that standard goods are not advertised, a strong drive is made in that spot for distribution of mail order catalogues and literature. In very few places can the mail order house hold its own in the face of good advertising by home merchants in the local paper."

$1,000 a Month Saved

Members of the Missouri Press association have been saving money on print paper by doing their buying co-operatively. An average sum of $1,000 a month was saved for the publishers in the last 12 months, according to their representative. It cost the purchase bureau 2 per cent to do business. Ten cars of print paper were handled.

Osseo Review Installs Cost System

The Osseo (Minn.) Review, whose editor has made it a practice to attend the short courses at University Farm for newspaper men, has just installed a complete cost system and standard price list for his office.

Old Paper Worth Saving

One who ought to know says that every bit of paper stock which is destroyed brings just a little nearer what looks like an inevitable paper famine. Old papers, magazines and even scrap paper should be preserved and sold even though the pay received for them seems hardly worth the bother of saving them.

Levang's Weekly Complimented

The National Printer-Journalist in its April issue pays a handsome compliment to Levang's Weekly of Lanesboro by reproducing in miniature form two pages of that Minnesota weekly and holding them up as a model for newspaper men generally. "Few more beautiful or more correct newspapers," says the Printer-Journalist, "are to be found anywhere."

Fool Proof Letterheads Best

The American Press, a journal for newspaper men, stresses the importance of publishers printing the names of their towns and states on their letterheads and other stationery. Some editors omit the name of their state, and the editor of the press says he now has on hand 62 letters from publishers on the deferred list for answering until such time as the state in which these papers are located can be determined. "Let us suppose," he says, "we are considering the Magnolia (Minnesota) Rustler. The letterhead should read as follows:

The Magnolia Rustler,
Magnolia, Minnesota.

"Moreover, the names of the town and state should be printed in plain type. Cut out the Old English, German text, the script and other puzzling lettering. The plainer the type used the better. Make your letterhead fool proof."

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

June 15 to 22

Keep rhubarb blooming stalks cut of you would use rhubarb late in summer.

Frequent and shallow cultivation now is of great value to most garden crops.

Keep newly set shrubs cultivated if you would have them do their best.

Spray rose bushes frequently to keep off aphis and other insects. For sucking insects some tobacco preparation is good.

All tall growing flowering perennials should be staked to prevent breaking over by the wind.

The yellow ladyslipper is quite easily transplanted in the spring or fall. Take a foot or so of leaf mold with each plant.

Cut the seedpods and flower stalks from larkspurs as soon as they are through blooming. They will then give another crop in the autumn.

Tomatoes may be tied to stakes or put on a trellis to advantage. More plants will be required, but the pruning will give larger fruit.

There are few trees more ornamental than the crabapple. Varieties like Florence and Virginia are both ornamental and useful for jelly.

Stop cutting asparagus. Mow off all stalks that have been allowed to grow. Fertilize the ground heavily and cultivate often until the tops grow too thick. Asparagus makes the growth now that produces the stalk next year.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

June 22 to 29

Make plantings of peas, beans, winter radish, carrots and beets for fall and winter use.

Cut out old wood of currants and thin the new growth as soon as the plants have fruited.

Give peonies, gladioli and other garden flowers plenty of water when they come into bud.

Raffia makes a good material with which to tie plants to their supports. It is soft and does not cut into the wood.

If the old strawberry bed is in good condition, it may be mowed, cultivated and cleaned and will bear another crop next year.

Set out late celery and cabbage now. It is well to have celery near to a water supply in order that water may be applied in dry weather.

Water soil thoroughly at this time of year. Watering the top of the ground lightly often does more harm than good.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

FIRST GRASS NOT ENOUGH FOR STOCK

It is poor policy, says O. G. Schaefer of the division of dairy husbandry at University Farm, to cut off all allowance of hay and other dry feeds for cattle when they are first turned to pasture at this season of the year.

"We should remember," he says, "that the grass during spring months is not very thick and long, and that the cattle must graze over a large area before they have received their fill. Furthermore, the grass, at this season, is about nine-tenths water; and an average sized cow giving 25 pounds of milk daily would require from 23 to 25 pounds of dry matter. To get this she would have to gather from 230 to 250 pounds of grass daily. One can readily see that it is impossible for the cow to gather this amount of grass daily, therefore she will have to go underfed.

"This fact becomes more pronounced with the higher producing cows. For these reasons the best practice is to continue feeding some hay, and preferably a small amount of grain, while on pasture the first few weeks, until the grass becomes more mature."

GOOD MARKET SEEN FOR 1920 CHICKENS

N. E. Chapman, poultry extensionist at University Farm, believes that the hatching of chickens should be carried on this year to July 1. He predicts good prices for all forms of poultry next fall, and says that chicks hatched by July 1 will get into the "soft roaster" class, weighing from one and one-half to four pounds each. Mr. Chapman also foresees a strong demand for broilers weighing from one pound to two pounds, to be dressed out and frozen by the packers for winter trade. During the early summer months the expense of feeding can be reduced and a larger percentage of the chickens reared because of more favorable weather conditions.

HINTS FOR MAKING GOOD ALFALFA HAY

The season's first cutting of alfalfa will soon be started. L. B. Bassett of the farm management forces at University Farm says alfalfa should be cut when about one-third of the blossoms are out. "If cut at that time," he says, "it makes the best quality of hay. If cut later, the lower leaves begin to drop and are lost and the stems are woody and are not relished so well by stock.

"A better quality of hay can be made if alfalfa is cured in the shade, but most farmers prefer to make hay while the sun shines. Keep in mind the fact that the leaves contain the greater part of food value in the hay, and adopt a haymaking plan that will save the leaves. One way that is very successful is to rake the hay, immediately after mowing, with a side delivery rake, throwing two swaths together. This keeps part of the plants in the shade and prevents the leaves from wilting by allowing them to draw the moisture out of the stems.

"The real secret of making alfalfa hay is to get the water out of the stems. If the leaves wilt first, the stems must be cured by a drying up process; but if the leaves can be kept from wilting until they have helped reduce the water in the stems, the hay cures much quicker and the leaves can be saved.

"After the windrow has dried a few hours it should be turned, care being taken simply to invert it. This can be repeated if need be until the hay is fully cured, when it can be taken in with a loader or sweep rake and put into the stack or mow. If handled in this way very little hand labor is required.

"If a side delivery rake is not available, the hay should be cured in small windrows, or better still, put up in cocks and covered and left to stand for a few days."

KILL SHEEP TICKS NOW BY DIPPING

Sheep ticks cause great annoyance to sheep of all ages, but more especially to the lambs after the older sheep have been shorn. In extreme cases they cause loss in body weight. The ticks resemble the ordinary wood tick, and can be easily located by parting the wool.

"Methods of treatment are very simple," says Philip A. Anderson of the animal husbandry division, Minnesota college of agriculture. "One dipping will kill all the living ticks, but eggs on the sheep will hatch, so that a second dipping in ten days or so is necessary. The best time to dip is just after shearing, as it is a hard problem to rid sheep of ticks with the annual growth of wool still on.

"The dips most commonly used," adds Mr. Anderson, "are coal tar, standard creosote, lime sulphur and tobacco. Any of the standard dips placed on the market are good, and directions are always given. Use the standard sheep dipping tank, barrel or canvas bag, according to the number of sheep treated. Heat the water slightly and mix the preparation well before using it. Keep bottom of tank well agitated, and hold sheep in solution from one to two minutes. Select a nice warm day and handle sheep as quietly as possible."

CO-OPERATORS TOLD TO TURN ON LIGHT

Publicity, good business methods—these are essentials even more important in a co-operative business, in the opinion of A. J. McGuire of the agricultural extension division of University Farm, than in a private business. Publicity is the greatest safeguard in co-operation, says Mr. McGuire, who believes that co-operative creameries should buy newspaper space, if necessary, in which to publish their monthly reports throughout the year. "Publicity," he says, "is the best means of helping a co-operative creamery that is in need of help. It is also the best means of keeping a first-class co-operative creamery first-class. Every patron should know what is being done. Publicity of this kind springs from good business sense. Let the light of day be turned on all transactions. Suspicion of the management had led many co-operative undertakings to failure."

FARMERS ADVISED TO HIRE BY HOUR

Experience the last several seasons, says W. L. Cavert, farm management specialist of the state college of agriculture, indicates that farmers will find it advantageous to employ harvest and threshing labor on the hour basis instead of the day basis. "The hour plan," says Mr. Cavert, "is absolutely fair to both farmer and laborer and has the advantage that the help is not likely to object when it seems necessary to put in long hours."

SEVEN POINTS IN CLOTHING THRIFT

How can the family or the individual best maintain the clothing standard demanded without spending more money or time than should be allowed? Marion Weller of the home economics division of the state university offers the following suggestions which, when applied, should enable the consumer to answer the question:

First. Make a budget, or a plan for spending.

Second. Take stock of clothing on hand, especially of all garments that are worth re-making, repairing or cleaning.

Third. Learn some of the textile facts that will help to make the buying of new fabrics more interesting. Learn also some of the simple textile tests that may be used in the home.

Fourth. Buy the fabrics that are more or less standard in quality and color. You will get the most for your money.

Fifth. Watch for and take advantage of special and out-of-season sales.

Sixth. Learn the best ways of taking care of clothing. Prolonging the life of clothing is one of the best means of conserving.

Seventh. Knowing how to sew is one of the most effective means of reducing the expense of clothing. If the mother of a family cannot sew, then the daughters should by all means learn.

"If all the clothing of a family," says Miss Weller, "has to be purchased ready-made, not only is there the added expense of making, but the material will not wear as will fabrics purchased by the yard for much less money." Her advice is to buy only the dress or suit that is simple in style, and of good material. If kept in repair it can, with only slight alterations, be worn two or three years.

SAVE EGGS NOW FOR NEXT WINTER

"This is the best season of the year," says N. E. Chapman, poultry extensionist at University Farm, to put down eggs for winter use. Eggs having the best keeping properties are produced in the early spring months and this season is rapidly passing.

"The present price of eggs is about as low as can be expected during this period of high quality, and as yet but few eggs are in storage. The consumptive demand will no doubt continue to be heavy, so that the prospect of cheaper eggs cannot be regarded as very bright. Hence it is good business policy to put down a winter supply of eggs by using some of the preservatives. Water glass and lime water have been used successfully. Fifteen dozen eggs can be preserved in a five gallon jar of water glass, which is probably enough to supply an average family during the winter months."

The water glass method provides that water shall be boiled and then cooled and sodium silicate mixed with it. Fresh and clean eggs placed in the crock should be covered to a depth of at least two inches with the water glass solution. The crock should be kept in a cool, dry place. The lime water method calls for the use of unslaked lime and water. After the lime has settled and the liquid is clear it can be used the same as water glass. This method is recommended when water glass cannot be obtained.

ALWAY'S BULLETIN ON PEAT SOIL OUT

The Agricultural Value and Reclamation of Minnesota Peat Soils is the title of Bulletin 188 which has just been published by the division of publications of University Farm. F. J. Alway, chief of the division of soils, University of Minnesota, is the author. This bulletin deals with the value for farming purposes of this class of soils, of which Minnesota has about 7,000,000 acres; the crops suited to them, and methods of handling them. It deals especially with the means of determining just what is lacking on any tract of peat, for there are several different kinds of peat soil and nearly all of them require fertilization from the very first in order to make them productive. Every Minnesota peat land owner who wishes to improve some of this kind of soil will find directions in this splendid bulletin as to how he should proceed. Write to the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn., for a copy.

Sugar is short; canned vegetables do not require sugar. Therefore, says R. S. Mackintosh, agricultural extensionist at University Farm, can all the vegetables possible and begin now. Mr. Mackintosh says that asparagus can be canned as easily and profitably as any garden product.

YOUNG CALVES DO BEST IN THE BARN

Large numbers of calves are now on hand from the million and a third dairy cows in Minnesota. The owners are engaged in raising the heifer calves at least, and are doing so by hand, depending mostly upon skimmilk. In this connection one question is often asked—should the young calves be kept on pasture or are they better in the barn?

The dairy division of the university has tried both plans and finds the best results come in keeping the young calf in a clean place in the barn until about three months old.

For the first two or three months the young calf does not eat grass enough to amount to much and does better if given a little bright hay instead; furthermore, the young calf suffers from heat and flies and does not seem to be able to look out for itself. During this period, the calf is best kept in the barn or at most allowed to run in a dry lot near the barn part of the day.

For skimmilk calves three to six months old a small pasture near the barn where they can be easily fed and looked after is ideal. Shade and plenty of water should be supplied. A row of small stanchions suitably located are almost indispensable if many calves are to be fed together.—C. H. Eckles, chief of the division of dairy husbandry, University Farm.

QUACKGRASS CAN BE DRIVEN OUT

Quackgrass can be eradicated, but it is a real job for a he-man who has sublime faith, high courage and dogged tenacity in about equal proportions. Tenacity and persistency are characteristics of the plant; no weakling is likely to subdue it.

Small spots of quackgrass can be eradicated, says A. C. Arny, in charge of farm crops at University Farm, by covering the closely clipped grass with tar paper weighted down with stones or soil. Or the spots may be thoroughly cultivated or hoed and then planted to corn or late cabbage.

When entire fields are infested, methods to be followed depend somewhat on the season and the kind of soil. Experiments, says Mr. Arny, have shown that quackgrass can be eradicated even in large fields without the loss of a single crop. A four-year crop rotation—small grain, clover, corn and corn—gives opportunity to eliminate the pest. In following this method the ground, after the clover crop has been taken off, can be cultivated from July 15 to November 1. Thorough cultivation of the two corn crops following usually completes the work. Mr. Arny finds that even the most thoroughly infested fields cannot stand many rounds of this sort of treatment.

A three year crop rotation—small grain, clover and corn—and a two-year crop rotation—corn and rye or early potatoes and rye—also afford an excellent opportunity for getting rid of quackgrass. Extra expense required by extra tillage will in most cases be largely made up by increased yields. Buckwheat in successive years or alternating with corn or potatoes, is a good antidote for quackgrass. and silage corn planted each year for several years on an infested tract will, if well cultivated, drive out the false grass.

SPRAYED POTATOES GIVE BEST YIELD

Spray your potatoes with bordeaux mixture. That is the advice of Floyd Riggs of Bertha, Minn., who grew 40 acres of good Early Ohios in 1919. Mr. Riggs' experience is related in a communication addressed to extension division men at University Farm by G. H. Atwood, county agent of Todd county. The composition of the spray was 5-5-50, in other words, five pounds of copper sulphate (blue vitriol), five pounds of good stone lime and 50 gallons of water. Each chemical should be dissolved in 25 gallons of water, stirred thoroughly and poured together into a 50-gallon barrel. The field was sprayed five times—June 12, 19 and 28 and July 7 and 18. The crop, which yielded 100 bushels to the acre, was sold in September for $1.29 a bushel. The cost of raising amounted to $60.50 an acre; the profit was $68.50 an acre. Mr. Riggs has been spraying with the mixture for several years and says there is no question but what it has paid. In 1916 he kept a check and found that an unsprayed plot yielded only about half as much as the sprayed plot of equal area. In 1917 the unsprayed plot yielded about two-thirds as much as the sprayed. Mr. Riggs hill-selected several bushels of high yielding potatoes last fall and expects to improve his crop this year.