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EDITOR'S COLUMN

NEW HOUSE ORGAN FOR EDITORS OF WEEKLIES

The Office of Publications, University Farm, announces that the Editor's Column of the Press News is to be abandoned as the result of a determination to issue a new publication for the editors of Minnesota—in other words—a house organ.

The new publication will bear the name "AMONG OURSELVES." Its aim will be to serve as a medium of exchange of news especially interesting to the editors and the publishers of weekly newspapers, and to bring to their attention ideas helpful in their business.

While AMONG OURSELVES will be issued through the Office of Publications, it will be a part of the extension service of the University Department of Agriculture. F. W. Peck, director of extension, has approved the plan because he feels that any service which may be helpful to the country press is one of the great educative forces of the state. He therefore feels that the publication of such a service sheet is a wholly justifiable extension activity. The plan to begin publication now grows out of a suggestion by H. C. Hotaling, executive secretary of the National Editorial Association.

As a means of securing the news of editors and publishers and their activities, the Office of Publications should be on the exchange list of all of the weekly papers of the state. If the office is not already on any such list, therefore, it is requested that it be placed there.

The first issue of the new publication will appear about December 1.

Foreign Language Papers Fading

The publisher of a foreign language newspaper in the twin cities predicts that in twenty-five years there will be no publications in this country except those printed in English. The young people, he says, prefer English language publications, and this preference, he believes, will grow stronger with every generation. Farm Press News notes in this connection that Unser Beuscher, a German paper at Mountain Lake, Minn., will go out of business after being published thirty-one years. It is to be consolidated with the Mountain Lake View.

Wheelock Buys Back Old Shop

Harry M. Wheelock has repurchased his old plant at Fergus Falls and once more taken up the active duties of an editor. The news will bring joy to the profession throughout the state. Mr. Wheelock had made Wheelock's Weekly much more than a local newspaper; he had made it an institution. Because of the standing which he achieved and the high regard in which he was held as an editor, he will be welcomed back to the ranks not only by his fellow editors but by an alert public.

Four Score, Still Has "Nose for News"

Joseph Gilpin, who came to Douglas county, Minnesota, in 1867 and two years later purchased the Alexandria Post which he edited for several years, recently celebrated his eightieth birthday. Mr. Gilpin returned to his old home in New York in 1874, but three years later came back to Minnesota and founded the Douglas County News at Alexandria. Although long since retired from active life, he still has a "nose for news" and, according to the Citizen-News of Alexandria, often hands in or suggests items for publication.

Another Milestone Reached

The McIntosh Times, Hansen & Snustad, publishers, has just entered upon its thirty-fifth year. The Times is a creditable exponent of its town and community. "We have been making new friends and keeping our old ones," the editors say, "and therefore we feel that the coming days will find the Times weathering the storms and clearing the rocks and shoals."

Review Moves to Minneapolis

The Hennepin County Review of Osseo will be printed and mailed in Minneapolis hereafter. The change is made, says the editor, because of better facilities afforded in Minneapolis for gathering the news from Hennepin county communities. A fully equipped job printing office will be maintained by the editors in Osseo.

New Paper for Winsted

The town of Winsted, just west of the twin cities, has a new paper, The Journal, a six-column quarto. Paul F. Wolf, who was for five years with the Lester Prairie News, is the editor.

Believe in Your Advertising

"The first one who must believe in your advertising is yourself."

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

November 15 to 22

Vines will soften the hard lines of cement or brick and their autumn colors add much to the place.

A few shrubs along the foundation line of the house add much to its beauty by connecting it with the lawn.

Home grown spruce and pine are useful as Christmas trees.

Now is a good time to put all tools and machinery in repair for next year's use.

Butternut and walnut will grow in most of our windbreak thickets to advantage.

Farmers' Bulletin 750, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., treats of roses for the home. It may be obtained by writing to the Division of Publications, Washington.

Be sure to attend some of the meetings of the State Horticultural society December 5 to 8. An excellent program has been prepared and there will also be a good display of vegetables, fruits, and flowers.

Cyclamen are among the desirable house plants at this time of the year. They will last several weeks if kept in a cool room and some attention given to their watering.

Do not store canna roots in a cold cellar where the thermometer goes close to freezing. They will not stand chilling, neither do they want to be kept so warm as to shrivel and dry. A temperature of 50 to 60 degrees is about right.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

November 22 to 29

Encourage the children to study plants and animals. When they know more about plant and animal life they will not be so ready to destroy it.

Have you any evergreens or other plants with bright bark or foliage to make the winter surroundings more cheerful?

Be sure the southwest side of the young apple or shade tree is covered to protect it from sunscald this winter. Wire, boards, paper or corn fodder are good materials to use.

Parched sweet corn or popcorn are appreciated these cool winter evenings. Popcorn should be stored in a cool room after it is well cured.

Darwin tulips were planted very generally this year. They are later than the singles, but very showy in their season. They can also be forced in the greenhouse to some extent.

Water the house plants thoroughly when you start in. A little water applied each day is apt to do more harm than good. Set the plant in a tub or bucket of water until it is thoroughly soaked, then wait till it needs water again.

One of the most valuable of late summer or early fall shrubs is *Hydrangea arborescens grandiflora* or "Snowball" hydrangea, so named from its snowball like flowers. *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora* is also good. It commences to flower the latter part of August and its large pointed trusses are ornamental till after heavy frosts, especially as they change from a greenish white to purplish bronze.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

SAVING CAN BE MADE

BY HOME BUTCHERING

"Too many farmers neglect to avail themselves of the opportunity to save on living expenses by the home butchering of livestock and curing of meat," says A. L. Harvey of the animal husbandry division at University Farm. "As soon as the temperature gets down around the freezing point, there is little danger of the meat spoiling. Hogs may be butchered earlier in the fall than either beef cattle or sheep, as a large percentage of the carcass can be cured." Here are some points which should be kept in mind, says Mr. Harvey, in slaughtering hogs:

1. Select young healthy hogs weighing around 200 pounds, as they are easier to handle, yield medium size cuts, and a reasonable amount of lard.

2. Keep the hogs off feed 24 to 30 hours before killing, but give them all the water they want.

3. Don't bruise or whip the animal before killing, or excite in any way, for a poor carcass will result.

4. Don't expect to do a good job with only the "old butcher knife." A sticking knife, a skinning knife, a saw, a scraper, a hook of some sort, and a gambrel are necessary.

5. Sticking without stunning or shooting produces the best carcass.

6. Scalding is best done when the water is about 150 degrees F. Put some soap or lye in the water to remove the dirt and scurf.

7. If a barrel is used, scald the rear end of the hog first.

8. Use plenty of water.

9. Loosen the leaf lard.

10. Split the carcass and allow ample time for cooling before cutting up.

CATTLE LICE KILLED BY RAW LINSEED OIL

Application of raw linseed oil is the most satisfactory treatment for cattle infested with lice and other parasites, says Dr. W. A. Riley, chief of the division of entomology at University Farm. One pint of oil applied thoroughly with a brush or rag will do for four or five cows. The application should be especially thorough on upper parts of the neck along the back from the poll to the base of the tail, the shoulder tops, and about the folds of the udder and escutcheon, for it is in these places that the lice are the most abundant.

Dr. Riley says it is desirable in bad infestations to clip the hair for a width of three or four inches along the back from the head to the base of the tail. The treatment with oil should be repeated in about two weeks after the first application in order to kill the lice which have hatched from the eggs. Thereafter it should be applied about once a month during the winter. It is important to use raw linseed oil, and not the boiled linseed, for the latter may cause skin irritation.

Another treatment that has been found quite satisfactory, says Dr. Riley, is the use of 4½ per cent creolin solution, made by taking 12 tablespoons of creolin to one gallon of water. This should be applied as a spray or with a sponge. It should not be rubbed in as it is likely to cause irritation of the skin.

DRY YEAR BEST FOR INSTALLING DRAINAGE

H. B. Roe, associate professor of drainage of the University of Minnesota, contends that a dry season is the best time to install farm drainage systems. "Farm drainage," he says, "is a preventive of drouth because by opening up and keeping clear the soil pores it increases the storage room for reserve moisture, gives more uniform distribution of soil moisture and improves the tilth of the soil."

Professor Roe gives three reasons why a dry season is the best time to install drainage: First, the work can be done with greater ease and more cheaply at such times; second, better work can be done in dry weather because the tiler can see what he is doing and is not hampered by bad weather conditions; third, most important of all is the preparation in advance for the removal of excess moisture in the wet seasons sure to follow.

In summing up Professor Roe says: "Farm drainage prevents drouth and is a means of resisting its effects. Careful design and a complete plan are essential to good results in drainage which, if installed under these conditions, is an inexpensive and permanent insurance of crops against drouth as well as against excessive rainfall."

DWARF APPLES NOT SUITED TO MINNESOTA

"Dwarf apple trees grown and sold by eastern and southern nurseries have no place in Minnesota horticulture," says W. H. Alderman, chief of the division of horticulture, University of Minnesota. "Such trees are grown in Europe, both in an amateur and a commercial way, and also in the eastern and central states. They are sometimes used for home gardens and for ornamental purposes. They are, however, always propagated on tender roots which will not stand the severity of a Minnesota winter."

Professor Alderman explains that the apple tree is dwarfed by grafting the ordinary varieties on weak growing roots, which will produce only a small tree. These roots are invariably winter-killed when planted in this state.

"Sometimes partially dwarfed trees can be secured by grafting the ordinary varieties on Siberian Crab roots," the horticulturist adds. "This makes an entirely hardy combination, but the dwarfing is not very pronounced. Both the commercial and amateur grower of Minnesota will do well to stick to hardy varieties propagated in the normal way."

FLAX PICKED AS GOOD CROP FOR '23 PLANTING

Farm crops men of the university believe that flax will be a good crop to grow next year. Relatively high prices are being paid for flax. Several years ago it usually sold at only 30 to 50 cents a bushel above the price of wheat. Just now it is quoted around \$2 a bushel, or about twice the price of wheat. Improved business and industrial conditions have helped to keep the price of flax seed on a substantial basis. Prof. A. C. Army, who is in charge of the farm crops section of the university, recommends that wilt-resistant flax seed be saved for planting on old land. Some other variety can be used for sowing on new land which is not infected with wilt. Some wilt-resistant seed can be obtained in Minnesota, Professor Army says, while North Dakota usually has large supplies which can be drawn upon.

ICE CREAM REAL FOOD ALL THE YEAR ROUND

Increased consumption of ice cream is urged by C. D. Dahle, of the dairy husbandry division of the state university. Ice cream, says Mr. Dahle, should no longer be regarded as a luxury to be eaten on certain occasions only. What has been considered a delicacy or a confection has, he says, definite food values equal to those of many other foods.

Comparing the fuel value of ice cream with that of various common foods, Mr. Dahle says that a quart or a brick of ice cream which weighs about 1.2 pounds is equal to three and three-fourths pounds of chicken, one and two-fifths pounds of beefsteak, 14 eggs (medium size), four-fifths of a pound of ham or 10¾ pounds of tomatoes.

"All of the elements needed to keep the body functioning correctly are found in even larger amounts in ice cream than in milk," says Mr. Dahle. "Butterfat is present in ice cream in large amounts, usually 10 to 14 per cent, and this fat is essential to the body for the production of heat and energy. The fat from this cold product produces heat for the body, as well as does any other fat. So you can see if ice cream is eaten in the winter time it helps warm your body. For this reason it is not a summer food, but an all year around food. It would have a greater cooling effect in the summer if it did not contain quite so much fat. The fat of ice cream also contains the famous fat soluble vitamin which is so essential to growth of children."

"Protein is found in abundance and is utilized by nature in replacing cells which are being constantly broken down in the body, especially when the body is at work. Milk sugar which is utilized for heat and energy is found in abundance, along with 13 to 15 per cent added cane sugar, which increases the flavor and amount of food for energy."

COUNTIES PLANNING EGG LAYING CONTESTS

An egg laying contest in every county in Minnesota would furnish effective means for exposing the faults of scrub flocks and locating good flocks from which stock could be obtained, says Cora Cooke of the home demonstration section, University Farm.

For this type of contest coöperators are obtained who agree to keep daily records of their production for a period of one year. Monthly reports are made to the county agent, giving number of hens, number of eggs laid and average production per hen. Publicity is given each month to the highest records and special emphasis is placed on the records of those showing the highest average production for the year.

Such a contest would serve to place on file in the county agent's office the names of owners of high producing flocks of the various breeds, thus enabling the people of the county to obtain stock in their own vicinity.

Eleven counties have already signified their intention of carrying on such contests. These are Nicollet, Red Lake, Roseau, Waseca, Wilkin, Winona, Ramsey, Rock, Nobles, Aitkin, and St. Louis. In several of these counties it is planned to give prizes for the ten flocks showing the highest average production for the year. The contests will be under the direction of Miss Cooke.

CABBAGE GOOD FOOD IF PROPERLY COOKED

"Cabbage is both a protective food and a regulator as it furnishes vitamins and minerals," says Lucy Cordner, University Farm. "In cooking, these qualities are too frequently lost, for long cooking destroys the vitamins and the mineral salts are dissolved out by the water used. Cabbage then becomes merely a filler when eaten. When properly cooked it does not cause gas, nor does the flavor 'return.'"

Miss Cordner submits the following recipe for cooking cabbage:

"Finely shred a head of cabbage, using a very sharp knife for the purpose. Have ready a pan of rapidly-boiling water. Put the shredded cabbage into this and boil for twenty minutes. Drain, season with salt, pepper, and cream or butter."

POULTRY FEED BILL CUT BY HOME MIXING

Home mixing of poultry feeds is recommended by Miss Cora Cooke, poultry specialist in extension with the University of Minnesota. A recent visit to the Orchard Gardens poultry demonstration community near Minneapolis showed, she says, the coöperators saving about a dollar a hundred pounds on all feeds used, by buying in lots of 1,000 pounds or more and mixing at home. These flocks are being fed at a cost of about \$120 a year for 100 hens, while if fed as good a grade of commercial feed the cost would be about \$200.

Leguminous Crops for Minnesota

(This is the second of a series of short articles, prepared by Minnesota Experiment Station men, on the value of legumes—soybeans, alfalfa, red clover, sweet clover, alsike, cowpeas, and Canada field peas—in the farming scheme on the average Minnesota farmstead.)

ALFALFA COMING CROP IN THE FARM SCHEME

Alfalfa growing in Minnesota traces back to the year 1857, when Wendelen Grimm came to Carver county. Mr. Grimm brought seed with him from Germany from which has been developed one of the best and most hardy strains of alfalfa. The variety which takes his name is the result of seed selected from hardy plants that survived severe winters.

Alfalfa is rapidly becoming popular among Minnesota farmers as a hay crop and is gaining in popularity as a pasture crop for hogs. The number of cuttings which can be harvested for hay usually makes an aggregate yield of three or five tons of the most palatable and nutritious hay rich in protein. Alfalfa hay well cured and properly stored has no equal among Minnesota forages. The relatively high percentage of digestible protein and mineral elements contained make it a desirable feed for dairy cows, beef cattle, sheep, and swine. Horses should be fed sparingly or they will gorge themselves.

Where alfalfa is used as a hay pasture most economical gains are made. Alfalfa peculiarly lends itself to pasturing with hogs. It is very desirable to seed a larger acreage than the hogs actually need. The excess may be cut for hay. Clipping allows the tender shoots to come on, which the hogs can use to advantage. Swine need much less tankage or protein supplements when on alfalfa pasture. Alfalfa is not only the best hog pasture, but it is the most permanent. Care should be exercised in pasturing cattle, horses, and sheep on alfalfa as bloating may result.

Seeding with or without a nurse crop may be practiced with excellent results where conditions are favorable. Scarified seed should be used at the rate of ten to twelve pounds per acre. Grimm alfalfa is to be recommended for the entire state of Minnesota. Where it is impossible to secure Grimm seed, hardy northern grown seed of other varieties may prove satisfactory.

The seed bed should be well prepared, and reasonably fertile. Any good corn or potato land is sufficiently rich to grow alfalfa. Where the soil is sour or acid, lime or marl should be applied at the rate of two tons per acre.

The acreage has increased conservatively. The total acreage according to the fourteenth census in 1920 was 45,410. From now on a greatly increased acreage can be expected. Farmers are rapidly recognizing the value of alfalfa in the farm scheme. An acre or more of alfalfa should be put in on many more Minnesota farms.—Ralph F. Crim, extension agronomist, University of Minnesota.

HOUSEWIVES CAN GIVE RED ANT ITS QUIETUS

A. G. Ruggles of University Farm, state entomologist, told a radiophone audience the other day that control of insect pests which annoy housewives can best be done by stamping out sources of infestation rather than fighting such pests after they have once become established.

The common little red ant is the cause of much trouble and work in many households. All but one or two species of ants infesting houses are naturally outdoor species, said Mr. Ruggles, but all of them, even the indoor varieties, have the same nesting habit. The first method of control therefore is to fumigate the nest or colony, if it can be found, with carbon disulphide or some other similar fumigant. The method of applying is to poke a hole into the nest and inject the poison; then cover with a damp cloth or bag to keep in the fumes.

Poison bait is made by dissolving one-half cup of sugar in one pint of water and adding one level teaspoon of arsenate of soda, the whole being well boiled. This should be used on bits of sponge or in small shallow dishes. The poison is carried back to the nests by the marauders and fed to the young as well as to the "stay at homes" and the queens who lay the eggs. In this way a colony of ants can soon be destroyed.

Another method, that of capturing and killing members of the foraging army, calls for great persistence and patience. Colonies can, however, be greatly reduced in population by persistently putting out sweetened water baits and trapping the enemy.