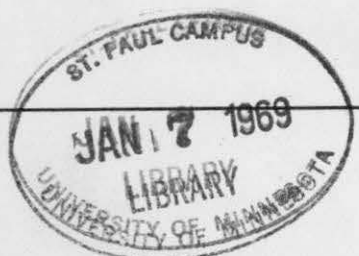




# Radio News Briefs

For A Growing Minnesota



December 27, 1968

## Vaccinate for Lepto if Herd Exposed

Vaccinate your herd for leptospirosis (LEPTO-spi-ro-sis)--commonly called lepto--if you're in an area where the disease is known to exist. You should also vaccinate for lepto if your herd is exposed by cattle shows or by new animals brought into the herd.

Joe Conlin, dairy specialist at the University of Minnesota, says the vaccine for lepto is effective for only 6 to 12 months, so it must be given annually. Animals with lepto show varying degrees of signs such as fever, depression, loss of appetite, bloody urine, bloody milk and abortion. Conlin says abortion may be the only sign of lepto in mild cases, and it usually occurs during the last 3 months of gestation. The vaccine is effective in reducing further abortions in the herd late in pregnancy.

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## Vitamin A Supplement Needed With Poor Roughage

If you're feeding weathered, poor quality hay and corn silage made after the corn was frozen your ration is probably low in vitamin A. Ralph Wayne, dairy specialist at the University of Minnesota, says you can't afford to feed a ration that's lacking in vitamin A since it costs only about 10 cents a month to supplement the total vitamin A requirement (40,000 International Units) for a cow.

Wayne says cows fed a ration low in vitamin A are more susceptible to pneumonia and nervous reactions, more apt to have weak calves and are more susceptible to breeding problems.

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Prune Forest Trees in Three Different Steps

A three step method of pruning forest trees is usually the most economical. Bill Miles, forestry specialist at the University of Minnesota, recommends first pruning trees when they are 20 to 25 feet tall. Prune no more than the lower one-third of the total tree height, or to a height of no more than 8 feet.

As the tree grows, increase pruning height to 12 feet, and then to a one log length of 17 feet. Pruning above this height isn't practical. Miles says if you delay pruning until trees are 40 to 50 feet tall and then make one pruning, knotty cores in branches are undesirably large. He doesn't recommend annual pruning since it's not economically practical and causes a 1 to 3 year "shock" period which results in reduction in diameter growth.

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Pruning Pines Yields Good Investment

You can earn an 8 percent compound interest rate on your pruning investment over a 60 year period using hand pruning methods. And with power equipment, greater returns may be possible. Bill Miles, forester at the University of Minnesota, recommends both thinning and pruning if you want to improve quality in red (Norway) or white pine plantations rapidly. Without pruning, few trees in plantations are marketable for valuable logs, poles and piling. Miles says pruning conifers also may reduce risk of fire and retard insect and disease infestations.

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Production Per Cow Best Profit Indicator

Production per cow is by far the best indication of net returns in the dairy business. Russel Erickson, extension dairyman at the University of Minnesota, says Minnesota cows in DHIA tested herds averaged over 12,400 pounds of milk and \$170 return for labor--2½ times as much as the average cow. This means 10 average DHIA cows are as profitable as 25 average Minnesota cows not on DHIA testing. If you want to improve your dairy profits, see your county agent or DHIA supervisor about joining.

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Good Buys for January

A good way to start the new year right is to keep in mind the plentiful foods for the month as you plan your food marketing. Heading the list of foods which the U.S. Department of Agriculture says will be abundant in January are oranges, grapefruit and grapefruit juice and tangerines -- all rich in vitamin C to help ward off winter colds. Other January plentifuls include broiler-fryer chicken, canned salmon, dry beans, canned tomatoes and tomato products, onions and potatoes.

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Tips for Serving Poultry

At this holiday time, you may have some questions about care of poultry for your holiday menus. Verna Mikesh, extension nutritionist at the University of Minnesota, gives these tips:

- . Keep poultry refrigerated or frozen until cooking time.
- . Use fresh-chilled poultry within 2 days.
- . Always complete the cooking at one time -- never partially cook it and finish the cooking at a later time.
- . Separate dressing and cooked poultry meat and refrigerate the leftovers promptly.

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Removing Cranberry Stains

You may have found that at the end of the holiday season you have cranberry stains on clothing. What do you do about it? Mrs. Beverly Lundgren, assistant extension specialist in home economics at the University of Minnesota, gives this tip. Soak the stained area in cool water. If this doesn't remove the stain, pour boiling water through the spot from a height of 1 to 3 feet if possible.

The most important step, of course, is immediate action. Most stains are set in washing and drying. So success in removing a stain will be accomplished best by identifying it and then treating it immediately.