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ORCHARD AND GARDEN
January 15-22

This is a good time to clean garden tools, repair hotbed sash, and do other odd jobs preparatory to spring.

Make close cuts when pruning. Stubs are likely to decay back to the heart of the tree.

Apple and smooth bark trees should have some protection on the trunks to prevent sunscald. Cornfodder, wire screen, or a board will do very well.

Look over the canna and dahlia bulbs frequently to see that they are keeping well. We shall need all of them this year. Canna stock is scarce.

The stock of flowers the country over did not meet the demand at Christmas time and many artificial flowers and other substitutes had to be used.

This is a good time of year to do garden planning and get the seed list ready to order. Send for some catalogs today and study them well when they come.

Every indication now points to a good season for the plantsman in 1919. Nursery stock and florists' stock for planting out, such as geraniums, coleus, etc., will be in great demand. Provision should be made for growing a good lot of bedding annuals wherever possible.

Christmas again demonstrated the need of more home-grown Christmas trees. There were not enough trees on our markets and they were of poor quality. Now is a good time to order a few hundred small spruce for lining out next spring. White spruce, blue spruce or the Black Hills spruce are good. Even jack pine makes a good Christmas tree and is quick growing.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN
January 22-29

Chicory may be bleached in a cellar or under a greenhouse bench to advantage. It is good for salads.

Bring rhubarb roots into the heat and water them, but keep light away. Nice edible shoots will soon appear.

Last October the Canadian Red Cross was distributing dressings made of sphagnum moss at the rate of 250,000 a month.

Make and put up a few bird houses now. Birds are the natural enemies of insects and will use houses and shelters if they are not too new looking.

Hydrangea Hills of Snow is one of the best of shrubs for home planting because of its long season of bloom and freedom from insects.

We would like to hear from anyone who tried the barrel method of storing vegetables outside, which received publicity last fall in some papers. We are guessing that everything in that barrel is frozen solid now.

There are about 100 sugar beet mills in this country. Few, if any, of them ran the normal period of 100 days because they could not get the raw material to work with. More seed was produced in 1918 than the year before, so there is a prospect of larger planting this year than last.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul Minn.

Editor's Corner**SEED GRAIN ADVERTISING**

Publishers of weekly papers throughout the state should find seed grain advertising a profitable field during February, March and April. Minnesota farmers are well supplied with seed corn and other seed grains and will be looking for a market for their over-supplies.

REPORTING CLASSES GROW

Interest in the work in journalism at the University of Minnesota has shown a rapid increase since the demobilization of the S. A. T. C. About 50 students have registered for the reporting course, which is at present the first course offered by the department.

DR. GAY TELLS HOW TO BUY A STALLION

The use of motor trucks and tractors has shown the necessity of figuring depreciation in all sources of power; and the horses that are bought in the future must be of the wearing sort that stay sound and have the least depreciation charged against them. It is the no-class horse that suffers most from motor competition.

"This is the season when stallion salesmen are opening their selling campaigns. Prospective stallion buyers should remember that the poorest horse requires the hardest selling," says Carl W. Gay, chief of the animal industry divisions at University Farm. "A good horse sells himself to any one who knows. When it becomes necessary to practice the selling methods that include a slick salesman's spending of money in an effort to induce twelve men to invest \$200 each in a stallion that would not make a high-class market gelding, it is time for prospective buyers to lay off. The present prosperity of the farmer calls forth more than usual activity on the part of promoters; and a company stallion is a good selling proposition.

"The company-buying plan is O. K., but the company-selling plan is too often resorted to as the means of moving horses that have proved unsalable at the barns. This is not always the case, but even if the horse is not a counterfeit, it is the most expensive way to buy. Each horse in a dealer's stable is expected to make so much profit and all additional cost of selling is not charged out of this profit but is added to the selling price. It probably does not occur to the members of the company that the cigars and dinners with which the salesman is so liberal, are really at their own expense if they buy the horse.

"When a stallion is needed in a community, adopt the company-buying plan. Let the men interested organize themselves and delegate one or two competent members to go to the stallion dealers and make their own selection. They would not only have the whole barn full of stallions from which to pick, but they would also save at least the amount of the salesman's time and the various items of his expense account, which may total several hundred dollars.

"Only such stallions as have proved their worth as sires or, by their breeding and individuality, give promise of becoming good sires, should be bought at any price. The farmer-breeder's interests are with the horse that has been well bought rather than well sold."

DANGER TO HOGS**IN FEEDING SALT**

Salt is dangerous to hogs. Though, like other animals, swine crave salt they are more easily poisoned even by small quantities of it. If they receive small amounts regularly at first they seem to develop a tolerance for salt, but care must be exercised in giving it to them.

H. C. H. Kernkamp, of the veterinary division at University Farm, reports that certain pigs allowed to graze in pastures with cattle where they had access to a salt lick or trough, licked the salt ravenously, and all but three of the herd died. Dr. Kernkamp says that in another case where salt brine was mistaken for sugar-water and fed to hogs with garbage, the pigs were poisoned and died within 48 hours.

Salt-poisoned pigs usually show no symptoms until from 12 to 24 hours or more. They then show increased thirst, dizziness, or a deep stupor, frothing at the mouth, refusing feed, and sometimes being afflicted with vomiting or diarrhea. Death usually follows after 24 hours.

Treatment in such cases may consist of a dose of two teaspoons of cornstarch boiled in two ounces of water until transparent and then diluted with water enough to make one pint; or a tablespoon of unground linseed mixed with water until it makes a mucilaginous mass.

"When salt is given to pigs," says Dr. Kernkamp, "it should be included as an ingredient in a mixture containing three parts each of sodium sulphate, sodium chloride (salt), sodium carbonate, iron sulphate, and one part of flowers of sulphur. This may be placed in some kind of a self-feeder where hogs may have free access to it, or, it may be given by mixing from three to five tablespoons to a barrel of slop-feed, or from two to three tablespoons to the bushel of dry feed, mix thoroughly.

It is not advisable to have salt alone in any kind of container at the free disposal of hogs.

LARGE DEMAND FOR FARM DRAINAGE MEN

All practicing drainage engineers, experienced drainage contractors and tilers, are urgently invited to register their names and permanent addresses with the Division of Agricultural Engineering at University Farm, St. Paul.

"The present great call for increased production and consequent increase in the number of productive acres in order to do our part in feeding the world promises to give, with the opening of spring, an impetus to farm drainage work, far greater than has ever been known in Minnesota," says H. B. Roe, assistant agricultural engineer at University Farm. "We are having an increasing number of calls for men experienced in the three lines for which we are asking for registration, and we believe that we can be of great service to both the farmer and the drainage men, by acting as a clearing house of information as to where just such men can be most readily secured for work in different localities throughout the state where the drainage is fast becoming a vital issue.

"We stand ready to cooperate in the drainage development in every legitimate way and we trust that drainage men will cooperate with us cordially and promptly in this move to help meet the present needs.

"Men interested should send us name, address, and line of work, and if they wish to add a brief statement showing what they have done in drainage lines, this will also be filed for reference for the benefit of those seeking services of such men.

"We shall also be glad to have on file a list of the tile manufacturers with their addresses and the kind of tile they make."

RED CLOVER SEED SHORTAGE THIS YEAR

"The supply of red clover seed in the United States is short again this year," says Robert C. Dahlberg, head of the state seed laboratory at University Farm. "Last year the final government estimate was 81,360,000 pounds; this year the October estimate was 82,920,000 pounds. But last year the farmers had a surplus from the preceding year. This has now disappeared, and as the amount required for seeding is about 150,000,000 pounds, there is a shortage and prices have reached a new high level."

Mr. Dahlberg suggests, therefore, that the farmer who has clover seed on hand—whether old or new—determine its seeding value by having the seed tested for germination. The state laboratory at University Farm, St. Paul, will test samples free of charge for the farmers of the state.

"Every pound of clover seed should be saved," adds Mr. Dahlberg. "If one farmer does not need all of his seed, he should make provisions to dispose of it to his neighbors."

BIG YEAR AHEAD FOR THE BEE-KEEPER

According to predictions made by the Department of Agriculture at Washington, which have been received by the bee division at University Farm, St. Paul, the bee-keeper may look forward confidently to a prosperous season during the coming summer and fall. The department at Washington reports that the increase in the cost of honey, owing to the big export demand created by the war, makes it safe to predict that the coming year will see the greatest effort ever made to further bee-keeping.

During the last half of 1918, honey to the value of perhaps \$2,000,000 was exported. This was about 10 times the valuation for any year before the beginning of the war, which indicates that honey has ceased to be a luxury in the minds of the allied peoples. The home demand for honey has also increased.

RECONSTRUCTION IN CITY AND VILLAGE

Cities and villages are urged to provide for the post-war reconstruction, which must go on for some time, by going forward with public improvements on a more extensive basis than ever before. Such an appeal is found in the December issue of Minnesota Municipalities, published by the League of Minnesota Municipalities.

Among the interesting features of this number are the report of the committee on judicial decisions, sanitary suggestions regarding bathing beaches, an article on "Does Road Oiling Pay."

YOUNG FOLKS' CLUBS PRODUCE \$442,000

The total value of all products of 18,711 boys and girls in reporting on their club work in Minnesota for the season of 1918 was \$441,990.69, and the net profit to club members over and above overhead expenses, cost of growing crops, etc., was \$192,112.70. The actual totals were probably considerably larger inasmuch as reports from 9,547 boys and girls have not yet been received. Two of the club projects—corn and poultry—have not yet been reported on in detail and should swell the totals again very largely.

These figures are taken from the report of T. A. Erickson, of the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota, leader of boys' and girls' club work in Minnesota, to the Department of Agriculture at Washington.

The reports for the various projects are as follows:

Potato Project: Number of clubs organized, 146; total state enrollment, 1,548; members reporting, 864; bushels of potatoes grown by members reporting, 31,720; average yield per acre, 244 bushels; value of potatoes produced, \$26,585.60; net profit, \$18,704.74.

Baby Beef Project: Number of clubs organized, 64; total state enrollment, 512; members reporting, 395; pounds of beef produced by members reporting, 160,358; value, \$25,657.28; net profit, \$16,607.59.

Pig Club Project: Number of clubs organized, 255; total state enrollment, 1,112; members reporting, 810; pounds of pork produced, 177,020; value, \$30,093.40; net profit, \$14,692.40.

Home Garden Project: Number of clubs organized, 520; total state enrollment, 14,240; members reporting, 9,968; value of fresh vegetables produced, \$128,017.60; net profit, \$71,200.

Home Canning Project: Number of clubs organized, 248; total state enrollment, 5,982; members reporting, 3,578; food products canned—fruit, 22,010 quarts—vegetables, 109,360 quarts—meats and soups, 984 quarts—jellies and jams, 7,680 jars; value, \$70,017.20; net profit, \$35,008.60.

Bread Project: Number of clubs organized, 282; total state enrollment, 4,100; members reporting, 2,497; number of loaves baked by members reporting, 74,470; value, \$7,437; net profit, \$2,974.80.

The corn club members reporting thus far show value of corn produced as \$55,386.50 and net profits of \$29,397.88. The poultry clubs, the report of which is very incomplete, show value of poultry produced as \$3,517, with a net profit of \$1,742.

Mr. Erickson's report also shows 2,116 canning demonstrations given. Of these 1,116 were by club leaders and 1,000 by canning teams representing various clubs. These demonstrations were attended by 15,500 club members, 14,500 women and 2,900 men, making a total of 32,900.

CROOKSTON READY FOR FARMERS' WEEK

The eighth annual Farmers' and Women's Week of the Northwest School of Agriculture, Crookston, will be held during the week of February 10. Health conditions are steadily improving in northwestern Minnesota and a large attendance is expected. Various organizations hold their meetings during the week, including the livestock breeders, pure seed coöperators, poultry association, Red River Valley Development association, and potato growers.

Through the enterprise and enthusiasm of the farmers and business men of northwestern Minnesota a \$25,000 livestock pavilion has been constructed for a winter livestock show and sales. This building will be used for the first time next month. This event will mark an important epoch in the livestock development of the Red River valley and will be appropriately celebrated for that reason.

The program of the meetings includes well known men and women who have messages worth while.

SUGAR BUSH AS MINNESOTA RESOURCE

The abundance of maple trees in Minnesota gives special interest to the following figures as to the cost of establishing a "sugar bush" and the returns that may be expected: The cost of installing equipment for bush of 400 buckets, \$700; fuel and cans for season's run, \$50; probable yield, 160 gallons of sirup at \$1.50 or \$2 a gallon, \$240 to \$320, or a gross return of from 33 per cent to 40 per cent to cover labor and interest on investment. These figures are furnished by J. J. Willaman, plant chemist at University Farm, St. Paul.

MORE THAN \$4,000,000 FROM FARM GARDENS

Minnesota farm gardens to the number of 83,776 last year, at an estimate of \$50 for each garden, produced \$4,198,462 worth of products, according to a report being sent out to county agents by R. S. Mackintosh, horticultural specialist of the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota.

In sending out this report Mr. Mackintosh appeals for a garden on every farm during the coming season. He urges a peace garden for every home in order that "Peace may be anchored with food."

The record of farm gardens by counties as shown in Mr. Mackintosh's report shows many counties very far behind their possibilities. However, the following report of what has been accomplished, should stir up fresh interest in every county:

| County | Gardens Number | Value of Products Each Garden |
|---------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Becker | 207 | \$10,350 |
| Benton | 511 | 25,550 |
| Big Stone | 672 | 33,600 |
| Carlton | 896 | 44,800 |
| Cass | 664 | 33,180 |
| Chippewa | 150 | 7,495 |
| Chisago | 1,805 | 90,200 |
| Clay | 1,130 | 56,485 |
| Clearwater | 981 | 49,055 |
| Cook | 110 | 5,475 |
| Cottonwood | 1,343 | 67,150 |
| Dakota | 1,730 | 86,520 |
| Dodge | 1,428 | 71,415 |
| Douglas | 1,925 | 96,260 |
| Faribault | 2,011 | 100,536 |
| Fillmore | 3,052 | 152,615 |
| Freeborn | 2,230 | 111,465 |
| Grant | 889 | 44,437 |
| Hennepin | 3,082 | 154,100 |
| Hubbard | 759 | 37,935 |
| Isanti | 2,022 | 101,087 |
| Itasca | 747 | 37,350 |
| Kenabeck | 915 | 45,765 |
| Kandiyohi | 2,013 | 100,665 |
| Kittson | 480 | 24,020 |
| Koochiching | 333 | 16,650 |
| Lac qui Parle | 1,677 | 83,835 |
| Lake | 168 | 8,400 |
| Le Sueur | 2,174 | 108,682 |
| Lincoln | 1,174 | 58,680 |
| Lyon | 1,514 | 75,690 |
| McLeod | 2,223 | 111,130 |
| Martin | 2,094 | 104,685 |
| Meeker | 1,642 | 82,100 |
| Millelacs | 639 | 31,950 |
| Mille Laacs | 639 | 31,950 |
| Morrison | 2,098 | 104,880 |
| Murray | 1,230 | 61,500 |
| Nicollet | 1,386 | 69,286 |
| Nobles | 910 | 45,475 |
| Otter Tail | 4,643 | 232,160 |
| Pennington | 1,120 | 55,980 |
| Pine | 517 | 25,825 |
| Pipestone | 475 | 23,737 |
| Renville | 2,153 | 107,662 |
| Rock | 1,085 | 54,225 |
| Scott | 912 | 45,600 |
| Sherburne | 1,071 | 53,550 |
| Sibley | 2,014 | 100,700 |
| Stearns | 4,170 | 208,495 |
| Stevens | 812 | 40,600 |
| Swift | 1,152 | 57,637 |
| Todd | 2,844 | 142,200 |
| Wadena | 402 | 20,080 |
| Waseca | 1,410 | 70,515 |
| Washington | 1,749 | 87,435 |
| Wilkin | 937 | 46,835 |
| Wright | 3,509 | 175,444 |

CROP-IMPROVERS TO MEET IN FEBRUARY

The annual meeting of the Minnesota Crop Improvement association will be held in St. Cloud, February 18-20. The program is just being sent out by C. P. Bull of University Farm, who is secretary. Among the speakers listed are: Dr. M. L. Burton, president of the University of Minnesota; D. A. Wallace, editor of The Farmer; F. E. Palmer, state leader of county agents; Miss Agnes Burnes, superintendent of the Benton county schools; T. A. Erickson, state leader of boys' and girls' club work; C. P. Bull, Minnesota Experiment station; Henry Limperich, mayor of St. Cloud; P. W. Huntmer, Melrose, Minn.; B. Forbell, alfalfa specialist of the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota; W. A. Boerger, superintendent of the Stearns county schools; Col. C. H. March, Litchfield; L. B. Bassett, University Farm; C. P. Johnson, county agent, Carlton county; Carlos Avery, state game and fish commissioner; James Johnson, University of Wisconsin; William Stuart, president of the National Potato Growers' association; A. G. Tolaas, potato specialist, University Farm; A. G. Ruggles, state entomologist; Andrew Boss, vice director Minnesota Experiment station; P. G. Holden, extension specialist for the International Harvester company; T. A. Kisselbach, Nebraska College of Agriculture.

An exceptional exhibit of improved crops will be shown.