

## RURAL ACTIVITIES AND NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE FARMER

### CO-OPERATION IN CATTLE BREEDING

Organization of Co-operative Bull Associations Will Show Improved Quality of Live Stock

Coincident with diversified farming in Northwestern Minnesota is the interest in livestock development. More attention is being given to the production of a better quality of stock, according to O. M. Kiser, Northwest Experiment Station, Crookston, which is giving farmers more profitable returns from livestock.

Most of the inferior stock seen on our farms is the product of the poorly developed sire and the sire of scrub breeding. The 1920 livestock census report from the office of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture shows that in the eleven Northwest counties of Minnesota only 22 per cent of the bulls used are pure bred. This fact alone, of one pure-bred to every 3.5 scrubs, is evidence enough that if any great progress is to be made in cattle breeding, the first step is the elimination of the scrub sires.

Co-operative cattle breeding rests on the forming of a co-operative bull association in a community where the farmers are interested in the improvement of some one breed of cattle. These co-operative bull associations are formed by farmers for the joint ownership, use and exchange of high class, pure-bred bulls. The bulls are purchased by the association from among the best herds of the breed that the community has selected to improve. These bulls are used in the herds of the members of the association regardless of whether the cows are pure-breds or grades. By the continued use of a pure-bred sire, the most common cow within two or three generations becomes the foundation animal of high grade offspring. The association bulls used on what pure bred females that are owned by individual members, soon increases the number of pure-bred females of a quality that will be desired by other members of the association or will find ready outside buyers.

Co-operative bull associations have existed in Denmark since 1874; in 1906 the number there had grown to 1095 with a total membership of 26,200, owning 1396 dairy bulls. The first bull association in the United States was started in 1908 by the Michigan Agricultural College. On July 1, 1919, there were 78 active associations in 27 states, with a total of 2978 members, owning 371 pure-bred bulls.

The typical co-operative bull association as organized in this country is composed of 15 to 30 farmers jointly owning 5 bulls. This divides the territory of the association into five "breeding blocks" and assigns one bull to each block. As many as 50 to 60 cows may belong to the farmers in each block.

A bull is kept in its block until his heifers are old enough to breed. A general shift of the bulls is then made. No bull of the association is eliminated; all are retained for breeding purposes. A sire becomes known by the value of his get. Many a sire has been sent to the butcher before his real value became known; the bull association makes it possible to try out good sires through years of service. A good sire should be useful until he is at least 10 or 12 years old, provided he does not become diseased or physically disabled.

Only high class bulls are owned by the association, as collectively, it is possible to buy a better sire. The individual farmer, without the means is often compelled to purchase a cheaper and inferior bull. Over a period of years, the individual member of a bull association will have less money invested in sires than if he, as a non-member, is compelled to do in making a new purchase on the average every three or four years, besides having the full expense of the care of the animal.

The greatest care should be taken in selecting bulls, as inferior bulls will completely defeat the purpose of the organization. Some farmer centrally located in each block, should be selected to take care of the bull, and each farmer should pay his share of the purchase price. In addition, each farmer pays his share of all other expenses, including the support of the bulls. His share of these expenses should not exceed \$10 to \$15 annually.

In order to avoid mistakes in organization, operation and selection of bulls, a community interested in such a project should get the assistance of the county agent or livestock department of the Northwest School of Agriculture.

#### JAPANESE BUYING VALLEY LIVESTOCK

Yoshio Bakkaido of Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan, a representative of the Japanese Government, was a visitor to the famous Red River Valley of Minnesota about two weeks ago and while here purchased 3 registered yearling heifers and a registered yearling bull, from A. E. Palmer, of the famous Palmer farm 10 miles west of Dorothy. The stock was purchased for the Japanese government and is being shipped direct to them. It is of the milking Shorthorn strain.

Yoshio Bakkaido visited several of the states and picked the best stock that could be found. His choice of the Palmer stock speaks well for the stock in this immediate vicinity. A fancy price was paid for all of the animals that were purchased.

Dr. A. T. Ostendorf tested the animals last Saturday and on Tuesday they passed thru this city over the Northern Pacific, for St. Paul, where a number of head are being assembled for shipment direct to the Japanese government.—Red Lake Falls Gazette.

#### A VOICE FOR THE HOMEMAKERS

Any farm that can afford a silo can afford a bathroom and a septic-tank sewage-disposal system. Any farm that can afford a cream separator can afford a washing machine. Any farm that can support pumping and storage facilities for the livestock can afford running water, hot and cold, in the house. Any farm that can maintain a manure spreader can afford an electric lighting system. Any farm that can afford self-feeders for the cattle can afford vacuum cleaners and electric-saving devices for the women. Any farm that can justify binders, silage cutters, hayforks, pumping engines, shredders, side-delivery rakes, corn harvesters, potato planters, and finely equipped barns can afford every modern convenience for making the home a good place for woman to live, work, rear children, and develop in them the love for farm life.—Herbert Quick.

### FARMERS WIN OPEN MARKET

Supreme Court Decision Marks Sweeping Victory in Farm Bureau Fight For Public Regulation

By Neil H. Swanson

Minnesota farmers have won a decisive battle in their fight for public regulation of the market where their products are sold.

The state supreme court has handed down a decision upholding the law by which Minnesota declared the South St. Paul livestock exchange to be an open market.

The decision affirms the right of the people to exercise the police powers of their state government in regulating the livestock exchange. "An association of commission men, dealing in livestock at public stockyards, may be required to observe such reasonable regulations as the state sees fit to impose in the exercise of its police power," the supreme court ruled.

The decision of the high court was handed down in the case of Grism against the South St. Paul livestock exchange. George Grism, a member of the exchange, traded with a non-member in violation of rules of the exchange. The exchange attempted to fine him \$250 for breaking its regulations. Mr. Grism brought court action against the exchange.

Under the "open market" act passed by the state legislature last year as part of the Minnesota Farm Bureau federation's legislative program, the district court issued an order restraining the exchange from collecting the fine. On an appeal to the supreme court, the decision of the lower court was sustained.

The ruling of the supreme court on the open market law is one of the most important decisions ever handed down in Minnesota in a case directly involving the farmers' business interests and public welfare. It upholds one of the outstanding laws enacted by the last legislature in response to an overwhelming demand from Minnesota farmers, through their county farm bureaus, for recognition of the people's right to supervise the markets where their food is bought and sold.

It means that a livestock exchange cannot prevent its members from trading with men who are not members. It means that a livestock exchange cannot prevent members from dealing with a co-operative commission association, established on the terminal market by Minnesota farmers in an effort to reduce the cost of distribution and to stabilize prices in the interest of both producer and consumer. It means that an organized boycott against a farmers' co-operative sales agency by a livestock exchange is unlawful.

The Minnesota supreme court, in its opinion, referred to court decisions involving the Kansas City exchange, quoting a statement that "the traders who were members of the exchange had never been able to resist the temptation to grasp the reins of the market and sit in the seat of monopoly." The record in the South St. Paul case, the opinion goes on, discloses no abuses of the defendant's potential power over the livestock business at the South St. Paul market. The exchange may render useful services to the public by its control over its members, the court stated, "but the power it wields over them is capable of abuse."

Time and again, when the right of the people to supervise the markets where their food is bought and sold has been at issue, representatives of exchanges have argued that proposed regulations would violate the exchanges' contracts with the state, as contained in corporate charters. Now the supreme court has stated all contracts relating to matters within the police power of the state are subject to the exercise of that power, because "the legislature cannot surrender it or bind the state not to exert it."

The supreme court also overthrows the exchange argument that the open market act deprives exchange members of property without due process of law, by destroying the value of membership. Membership rights, the high court ruled, may be property, but "they are property which is subject to the police power of the state." Property rights are just as much subject to the police power of the people, as exercised through the state, as to the taxing power of the state, the supreme court held.

The decision upholding the open market law is an agricultural triumph. The first definite result of attacks on the agricultural marketing laws enacted in Minnesota is victory for the farmers and for the public. It is a sweeping victory for the Minnesota Farm Bureau federation, which organized and led the fight for open markets and the right of the people to supervise the marketing of the food they eat.

#### PROGRAM PREPARED FOR "CATTLE FEEDERS' DAY"

Cattle Feeders' Day, when the results of feeding experiments will be summarized by the men of the animal husbandry division, University of Minnesota, has been set for Friday, June 30. Sixty head of calves have been under feed in groups of 10 heads each since last December with a view of determining the feeding value of different rations and the relative merits of purebred beef calves, high grade beef calves and calves of mixed breeding for baby beef production. The findings of this experiment and others now being finished at University Farm will be made public on Cattle Feeders' Day.

At the forenoon session W. H. Peters, chief of the animal husbandry division, will tell why the baby beef experiment was conducted. N. K. Carnes will explain the feeding trial system and the results secured. A representative of the packers will analyze the packers' ideal baby beef steer, and a representative of commission firms will give advice as to the selection of the feeder calf.

W. C. Coffey, dean of the university's department of agriculture; Andrew Boss, vice-director of the Minnesota Experiment station; E. F. Ferrin, in charge of the swine section of the animal husbandry division, and J. H. Sheppard of the North Dakota agricultural college are on the program arranged for the afternoon.

#### LOW GRADE CYANIDE KILLS POCKET GOPHERS

Prof. F. L. Washburn of the division of entomology and economic zoology, University of Minnesota, has been experimenting this spring with a low grade of cyanide coming in the form of thin flakes under the name of rodent exterminator. He finds that this material when placed in the bottom of a branch or main burrow of a pocket gopher and the opening closed, is very effective in killing the gopher, but apparently not so much so in sandy soil. The material is cheap, each dose only costing a few cents. It bids fair to be in general use among farmers says Mr. Washburn.

#### MCGUIRE ENDS COLLEGE WORK

General Manager of Creameries Agency Resigns University Post After 27 Years

By Farm Bureau News Service

A. J. McGuire, general manager of the Minnesota Co-operative Creameries association, Inc., has resigned his post as dairy specialist of the university extension service.

He has been on leave of absence from the university college of agriculture for more than a year, serving as organization manager of the creameries association. His election as general manager was announced last week. His resignation from the extension service ends 27 years of work at the college of agriculture.

Mr. McGuire came to the agricultural school in 1894 from a grain farm in Swift county. He worked his way through the school by milking cows, and through the agricultural college of teaching dairying in the school. In 1904, he took charge of the experiment station at Grand Rapids. At that time, the station had a herd of six common cows. When Mr. McGuire left in 1914, it had 60 cows, a Guernsey herd carefully built up by use of purebred sires.

Twenty years ago this summer, Mr. McGuire made an intensive study of Minnesota's co-operative creameries, beginning in Freeborn county. His report, showing that the prices paid for butter fat by the best co-operative creameries were so much higher than prices paid elsewhere that the difference would be enough to rebuild and re-equip the creameries every year helped to hasten the development of the co-operative creamery system.

Livestock producers of southeastern Minnesota will meet at Rochester on June 20 to discuss plans for organizing to market their stock through a farmer-owned and farmer-controlled commission company on the Chicago market. The meeting was called by the Minnesota Farm Bureau federation at the request of the National Livestock Producers association. This association is the outgrowth of the Committee of Fifteen, organized by the American Farm Bureau federation to work out plans for better marketing of livestock. John G. Brown of Indiana, president of the association, and also president of the Indiana Farm Bureau federation, will address the stockmen.

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### PRODUCERS MAKE \$48,000 PROFIT

Farmers' Livestock Agency at South St. Paul Sets New Record For Co-operation

By Farm Bureau News Service

Minnesota farmers have set a new record for co-operation in the United States. The surplus set aside by the Central Co-operative Commission association at South St. Paul in the first five months of 1922, and just reported to the local shipping associations throughout the state, exceeds every former achievement in co-operative marketing of livestock.

Since Jan. 1, the farmers' sales agency at South St. Paul has set aside a surplus of \$48,183, after paying the entire cost of operation, and handling the largest volume of business on the market at rates considerably below the prevailing commission charges. The company already has paid back to its patrons in patronage dividends more than \$19,000, a sum larger than the total amount invested in its capital stock.

The investigation department of the Minnesota Farm Bureau federation has compiled figures showing that the money invested by livestock producers to establish their own sales agency on the terminal market amounted to less than 45 cents apiece.

In the first five months of 1922, the Central association has handled 5,849 carloads of stock; the total volume of business on the market amounted to only 23,087 cars. The co-operative firm's business so far this year has been more than four times as large as that of its nearest competitor.

#### FOREST CATERPILLARS DAMAGING SHADE TREES

"Great fleas have little fleas upon their backs to bite 'em; and little fleas have lesser fleas, and so ad infinitum." Many complaints of depredations by the forest tent caterpillar have been received by entomologists at University Farm. This worm is particularly destructive to the leaves of the basswood and the elm. It is fond of maple, too, and often attacks orchard trees. It does not despise locust, ash, hickory, birch, willow, poplar and various other deciduous trees.

Two factors serve to keep this pest within bounds. It produces but one generation a year and is highly susceptible to various parasites. State Entomologist A. G. Ruggles of University Farm says: "Over a series of years the parasites seem to get the upper hand and the destructive forms are so reduced in numbers that we hear nothing from them. Finally the parasites are killed off. Then the destructive forms begin to increase in numbers until such time as the parasites get in control again. This will account for the periodic outbreak of many of our caterpillar pests."

Nature's method of control is the only method for wood lots and forest areas. The caterpillar in orchards can be controlled by the use of ordinary spray materials. Isolated shade trees can be protected by bands of sticky material which will prevent the caterpillars from reaching the limbs of the tree. The bands to be effective should be closely watched and cleaned or renewed as needed.

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#### LIVESTOCK SAVES DAY FOR MANY FARMERS

Detailed cost accounts kept for 1921 by university men on a group of 21 farms in southwestern Minnesota show that the average farm in that group yielded but little more than a bare living for the farmer. The excess of receipts over expenses on the 21 farms averaged only \$772.

Summarizing the results of the year's cost studies, Prof. G. A. Pond of University Farm finds that livestock was a life-saver for the farmer in most instances. Some money was made on all livestock except beef cattle, he says. The average return per acre over operating expenses for land in crops on the basis of prices on December 1, 1921, was \$1.71, or not much more than enough to pay the taxes.

Professor Pond believes the outlook for the farmer is decidedly brighter than it was a year ago. In this connection he says: "The farmer who has had the courage and financial support to weather the depression of the last two years, who is continuing steadfastly about his business with his eyes open for every opportunity to increase his receipts and curtail his expenses, and who has productive livestock through which to market otherwise unprofitable crops, seems in a fair way to enjoy a continuation of the increase in financial returns that the year 1921 registered over 1920. The recovery may be slow but it will be sure."

#### ROADSIDE MARKETS WORTH CONSIDERING

At the proper season many Minnesota farmers and homemakers might do well to consider the establishment of a roadside market. Minnesota is becoming one of the leading tourist states of the union. It has all the natural advantages which attract and hold. Farmers of various eastern states have profited by setting up

roadside markets and offering their produce and wares to auto tourists. Honey producers of Connecticut have found the roadside market their best medium for direct contact with the consumer, according to the Connecticut Market Bulletin. Minnesota farmers located on trunk roads can often build up a market at their door for summer produce, also for dainties and delicacies prepared by home-makers.

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