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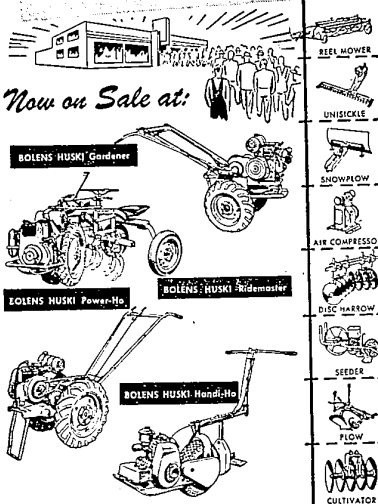

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PASTURE HELPS MAKE MONEY FOR DAIRY FARMERS

Pasture-produced milk is the most profitable, dairy farmers tell Michigan State College extension dairymen.

Many have no figures to back their claims — they just know that they feed less grain, little hay, and are freed from heavy barn chores during pasture season.

But one Livingston County dairy farmer does have some proof that milk costs are cheaper in the pasture months. His herd has been on test for 20 years. Figures obtained by MSC dairymen from his record show how alfalfa-brome pasture has lowered production costs since he started using it as the summer feed.

Feed costs to produce one hundred pounds of milk in pasture months averaged just one dollar less than they did during the barn season over the past three years. This herd of 12 cows put about $100 more a month in the family pocketbook because of cheaper feed costs with pasture.

Pasture for this herd was not figured "free" either. Each cow was charged 15 cents a day while she dined on the alfalfa-brome to cover taxes, costs of seed, fertilizer, lime, seed bed preparation and maintenance. The big saving was in grain costs, for when the pasture was at its peak, practically no grain was needed.

Dairy specialists report that Michigan dairymen can find out more about the use of pasture and forage in profitable dairy enterprises at the Grass Day programs to be held throughout Michigan during the month of June.

Pork should not be aged as the fat may become rancid and give off flavors to the meat.

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Time Here For Spring Pig Care

The old theory about castrating pigs within a certain phase of the moon is unsupported by scientific fact and is without foundation, according to Dr. B. J. Killham, Michigan State College extension veterinarian.

He made this statement in urging farmers to have their pigs vaccinated and castrated in the springtime as soon as they are the right age. Pigs should not be allowed to run in the mud or in unclean quarters until healing has taken place following castration.

Of the three months of vaccinating pigs, the older serum and virus method has the most supporters. The two newer methods appear to protect hogs during the feeding period, but the duration of immunity may be shorter. However, the two newer methods have the advantage of not endangering other hogs or contaminating the premises.

The newer vaccines lower the disease resistance of the pigs for about three weeks. Therefore, these vaccines should not be used when cholera is present. The best time to apply the serum and virus treatment is just after weaning time. However, farmers are advised not to wait too long after weaning.

In the event the sow is immune to cholera, the pig acquires a certain amount of resistance from the milk. This advantage is lost after the pigs are weaned, Dr. Killham pointed out, too, that larger pigs will cost more to vaccinate.

Michigan State College poultrymen say that eggs should be held in a cool, moist, well ventilated room. Never put warm eggs in a case — it will hold the heat in the eggs. Market at least twice a week.

CLEAR PLOWING HELPS CONTROL CORN BORER

A few tips to farmers in the control of corn borer, which causes an untold amount of damage in southern Michigan every year, are offered by Ray L. Janes, Michigan State College entomology extension specialist.

Janes said all fields heavily infested last year should be clean plowed, and that fields where the corn borer thrived the preceding year should be cleaned of all surface rubbish if possible.

The depth of plowing should be from six to eight inches. Coulters, chains, and other devices may be employed to get the rubbish down under the soil as far as possible.

Last year's corn stalks sticking out of the earth may be a haven for the corn borer from where he frequently makes an escape to thrive on a new corn crop. All infested fields should be plowed under sometime between May 15 and 20.

Though the clean plowing method is a big boost in stopping the corn borer, it nevertheless is not a sure cure and as a result total control will not be attained. Early corn crops in Michigan are usually more affected by the corn borer than the later crops. Though some delay is warranted in planting where the borer is bad, farmers should not wait so long as to deter the crop from maturing satisfactorily in the fall, Janes warned.

Switches for power machines should be placed out of reach of children or should be the type that can be locked, say Michigan State College agricultural engineers.

Use caution in buying bargain seeds, warn farm crops specialists at Michigan State College. They may not be adapted for your locality and might yield poorly.

Expect Difficulty In Finding Farm Labor

The Michigan State Employment Service is preparing for the busiest year of farm placement activity since responsibility for farm labor recruitment was returned to the agency in 1948. With industrial employment going up as it has been the last several months, and unemployment down to 2700 (representing only 3.5% of the labor force) some difficulty is anticipated in filling all agricultural needs.

Herbert T. (Hub) Baynes, who was appointed seasonal Farm Placement Specialist in 1949 has been assigned to continue the work this year.

All general and dairy farmers and fruit growers are requested to advise the Employment Service of their labor needs as early as possible so that steps can be taken to recruit qualified workers.

Likewise, any man interested in farm work is urged to contact the Employment Service for placement. Orders have started coming in for single men with and without room and board and for married couples with living quarters furnished. There is no charge to either the employer or the worker for this service.

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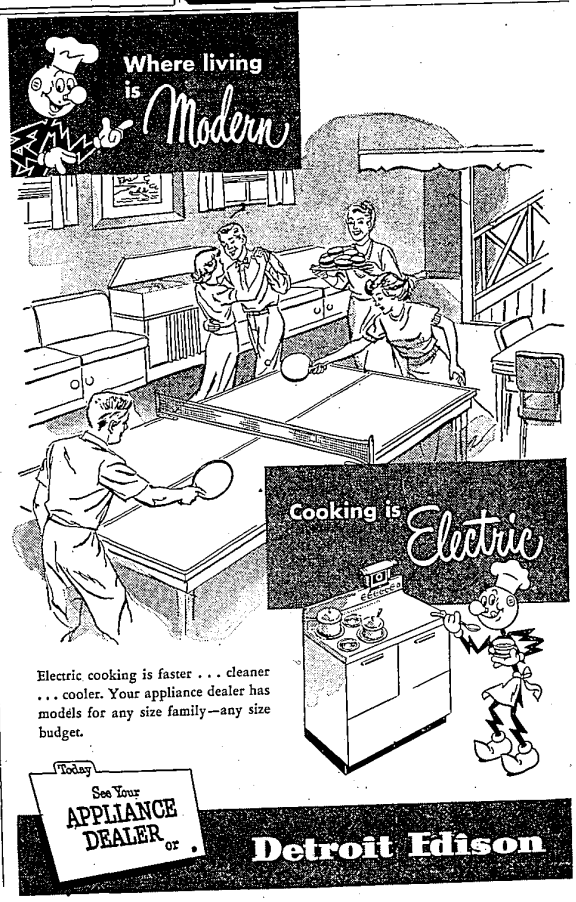

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