

FARM FEATURES

MICHIGAN BEAUTY AND BEAST



All called up—Michigan's 1946 Dairy Queen, pretty Retha Badger of Beaverton, champion girl cow milker at Michigan State college, and the college dairy cow which cooperated with her in producing 117 pounds of milk in 11 minutes and 20 seconds. The judges were so pleased they bedecked garlands of flowers on both Retha and the cow. Sponsoring organizations were the American Dairy Association of Michigan, the Milk Producers Association, the Michigan Dairy Industry Committee and the State Department of Agriculture. The 1945 income of the Michigan dairy industry was \$200,000,000.

COUNTY AGENT GIVES SYMPTOMS IN HOG DISEASES

Many of this spring's pigs will die of cholera because their owners mistakenly think the disease is erysipelas—and many more will die of erysipelas because owners think it is cholera.

County Agricultural Agent Karl D. Bailey says that both cholera and erysipelas look so much alike that it is difficult to distinguish them without a careful diagnosis.

In cases of cholera, the hogs will not eat when aroused; erysipelas hogs will eat.

Cholera-sick hogs are dull, don't care what happens; erysipelas hogs have bright, alert eyes that watch everything that is going on.

Death losses start slowly and increase steadily with cholera; but in erysipelas outbreaks the major death losses occur immediately, and then decline.

Erysipelas has spread rapidly in recent years, and is a particular threat at this season, because it frequently attacks within a few days or weeks after pigs are born.

At the same time authorities are anxiously concerned about the cholera threat. Another upswing in the cholera cycle is long overdue and fewer hogs were immunized against the disease last year.

This is leaving many communities wide open to it, if it should strike.

Livestock Producers Face Serious Problem

Livestock producers of Michigan are confronted with one of the most serious problems in history according to G. A. Brown, head of the animal husbandry department at Michigan State College.

The necessity of shipping large quantities of grain to Europe to prevent starvation is not only bringing about a change in individual human diets, but is calling for a maximum conservation and economy in the feeding of livestock, he says.

Every livestock producer must strive to get the maximum utilization of grass and forage, remembering that over one-third of our total food supply is obtained by the conversion of roughage into edible human food. We cannot afford to see this valuable contribution to our over-all food supply reduced through the sale of livestock to a point where we cannot utilize all our coarse feeds," the veteran livestock specialist added.

In the past, livestock provided the only market for approximately three-fourths of our cereal grain production in the United States. What at present there is a great demand for this grain to meet an emergency the time will come again when a great surplus will pile up if livestock are not available through which the feed can be marketed.

Brown urges the Michigan livestock men not to reduce the livestock population to a point where it will take years to build it back. Careful use of available feeds and roughage will allow most farmers to maintain a normal program, he believes.

Painting Tip
Painting should not be done on surfaces which are close to or below the freezing point. Some authorities caution against painting in temperatures under 50 degrees, while others go as low as 40 degrees if the air is dry and no early freezing is anticipated.

FERTILIZER PLACEMENT AFFECTS CROP

Use commercial fertilizer to increase bean yields—but use it with caution, warns Karl D. Bailey, county agricultural agent.

Extensive tests conducted by the Michigan State college soil science staff show that all beans, including the pea bean and soybean, are very particular with respect to fertilizer placement. As reported by James A. Porter, extension specialist in soil science, if the fertilizer is too close or in contact with the seed, the tender sprout will be injured. If placed too far from the seed, the increased yield seldom compensates for the cost of the fertilizer.

An ideal arrangement for placing the fertilizer correctly is the use of a modern beet and bean drill which places fertilizer one inch to the side and one and one-half inches below the level of the seed. On heavy soils, Porter recommends 200-300 pounds per acre of 0-14-7, 2-16-8, or 2-12-6 fertilizer. For lighter or more sandy soils, the recommended application is 200 pounds of 0-12-12 or 3-12-12 fertilizer per acre.

An ideal arrangement for planting but not for fertilizing beans because the fertilizer would be placed in contact with the seed, pea beans and sometimes soybeans are planted in rows, which permits the shutting-off of fertilizer in the sprouts used for seeding the beans and the use of fertilizer in the remaining sprouts. Such an arrangement does not make for profitable yields because the fertilizer is 7 inches from the seed, which is too far. Broadcast applications of bean fertilizer have not proved profitable, the college tests have shown.

Worms In Sweet Corn Now Killed By Dusting

Growing early sweet corn without worms is no longer an idle dream for the home gardener, according to Herman King, extension specialist in entomology at Michigan State college. Control methods for the corn borer are both simple and inexpensive, but require a good deal of persistence.

While spray or dust treatments are equally effective against this insect, most home gardeners find the dusting less trouble. Treatment, King says, should start early when the corn is about 8 to 10 inches high, usually about June 10. Five treatments, at five-day intervals, get the best results. The spray or dust should be directed into the growing whorl of the plant. This is easy at the first application, but 20 days later it requires some persistent effort. The late applications should cover the tassels and ears as they develop.

Roteneone and DDT are equally effective in controlling corn borer, and either material can be used as a spray or as a dust. If rotenone dust is used, it should contain 1 percent of actual rotenone. Roteneone sprays should be made according to the manufacturers' recommendations. If DDT is preferred, use a 5 percent DDT dust or use 4 tablespoons of 25 percent DDT wettable powder per gallon of water.

If DDT is used there is one precaution. The corn stalks should not be fed to livestock. Stalks can be fed safely if rotenone is used, the entomologist stated.

Vegetable Stalks
Try mixing tomatoes and celery occasionally for a good vegetable dish.



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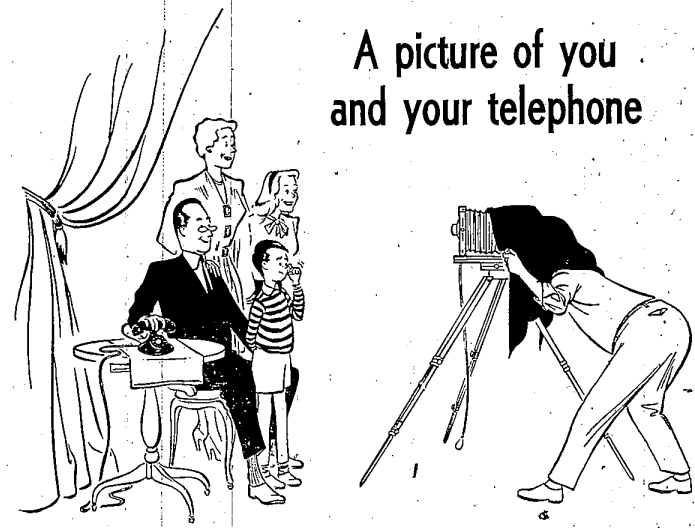
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Right now we are working at top-speed on a 5-year \$150,000,000 expansion and improvement program. Our first objective is to supply service to the thousands of families who are still waiting for telephones. But this program is intended to do much more than that. It will enable us to care for future growth and give everyone the kind of service wanted when and where it is wanted.

And Michigan Bell's earnings are in the picture, too, for good telephone service depends on adequate earnings. Thousands of thrifty people have their savings invested in Bell System securities. Their money makes good service possible. In fact, Michigan Bell's \$150,000,000 post-war program will be financed largely by these and other investors. And that program will provide more and better telephone service for you.

So you see, telephone rates—such a small part of your monthly budget—must be maintained at a level which will keep our earnings adequate. Otherwise, investors would not put their money into the telephone business, and the future quality and extent of your telephone service would suffer.

We believe our customers want good telephone service, even if it costs a trifle more than inferior service.

Technical improvements over the years have brought rates for good service down and have kept them down in the face of rising costs. But if the recent rapid rise in costs continues, rate increases may become necessary. In any event, Michigan Bell wants rates no higher—and no lower—than necessary to insure good telephone service.

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