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OAKLAND COUNTY FARM CO-OPS AID IN FORESTATION

Three million trees were planted by farm cooperators of Michigan soil conservation districts in 1945. Earl D. Bailey, county agricultural agent, has received this information from R. G. Hill, secretary of the state soil conservation committee and Michigan State college extension specialist.

Hill reports that since soil conservation districts were started in 1938 more than eighteen million trees have been planted in the soil conservation districts.

Most of the planting has been of white, jack, and Scotch pine and Norway and white spruce, although in some localities, shrubs were used. Plantings have been confined largely to small areas on farms which are not suitable to cultivation or pasture. However, in many localities, plantings have been made to reduce wind and water erosion.

In some soil conservation districts harvesting of Christmas trees from early plantings started last winter. This is especially true in the West Ottawa District where a cooperative Christmas tree marketing association has been set up to facilitate the sale of the crop.

All of the conservation districts in the state have some tree planting included as a part of their program.

Agriculture Inspectors Enforce Food Standards

Preventing the manufacture or sale of adulterated or misbranded articles of food and drink in the State of Michigan is one of the major objectives of our Food and Standards inspection staff, says Charles Fley, director of the State Department of Agriculture.

The shortage of some basic foods such as butter, edible oils, sugar, etc., has unquestionably been the cause of an increase in this type of violations of our food laws.

In the month of May alone, Department inspectors placed under seizure or stopped the sale in Michigan of 145 different lots of food or drink that were found to be adulterated, misbranded, or in violation of some other state law governing the sale of food. During the same month, we obtained 22 convictions of persons or firms for the more serious violations.

Special reference should be made to a method of food adulteration that is injurious to health. The use of mineral oil in food products, which is a non-edible oil, has become prevalent because of the shortage of the more expensive edible oils. In spite of repeated warnings by this Department, our inspectors continue to find various lots of food products that contain mineral oil being offered for sale or served in food stores and eating establishments. Many of the latter have used mineral oil in salad dressings. Mineral oil has also been used for seasoning popcorn. Generally artificial coloring has been added to make the popcorn appear to have been fresh buttered. Mineral oil is a non-nutritive product and is illegal for use in common articles of food, regardless of labelling. The sale of ordinary articles of food containing mineral oil, including the serving of mineral oil salad dressings in eating establishments, is also prohibited by State Law.

Another form of adulteration that is on the increase and should be discontinued is the substitution of saccharin in the place of sugar. Saccharin is non-nutritive; therefore, it is not a food product and is illegal in food, drink or beverages except when the name is intended for special dietary products and the labelling conforms to the specific regulations.

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Never use a sharp instrument in removing ice trays; it may injure the refrigerating coil or tray.

Pest Control Necessary For Top Production

From the viewpoint of the farmer, orchardist, florist, nurseryman or the livestock man, pest control begins at the beginning. It is a struggle that has been carried on by the farmer and his forebears since agriculture began. To the beginning he had only to contend with native insects and diseases as commensal in nursery stock and plants did not involve transportation over long distances. Thus, sprouting pests and plant diseases from each section of the land to another.

The individual control operations of the farmer on his own land may be considered the first step in pest control. He is aided in this work by public funds and by information made available to him through various agencies as to the best methods to accomplish the most economically and effectively.

With the increasing volume and speed of commercial movement of agricultural plants and animal stock, it has become apparent that the second step is to adequately protect the plant industry in the State. The recognition of the hazards imposed on agriculture by the introduction through commerce of new pests and diseases has prompted the establishment of quarantines to protect these producers from further invasion of new pests.

The third phase of pest control may well be considered the suppression or eradication of pests which are newly introduced. Careful planning and extensive research to gain technical knowledge of the character of the pest or disease is needed to maintain effective control and eventual eradication.

The control of emergency outbreaks which cannot be economically controlled by individuals or local agencies alone, may be named as the fourth phase of pest control. Such control is best accomplished through cooperative activities between individuals, local, state and federal agencies according to the needs and the abilities of the cooperating agencies. Excellent examples of these emergency outbreaks are grass hoppers, Mormon crickets and chinch bugs, which are important from a quarantine standpoint.

The future of our horticulture and agricultural industry depend upon how well we can control and combat destructive insect pests and contagious plant diseases and by preventing the introduction and dissemination of new pests and diseases.

Hints Given On Summer Seeding Of Alfalfa

If, like many farmers, you intend to plant alfalfa during the summer months, Roy E. Decker, head of the department of farm crops at Michigan State college, offers a few timely hints on how and when to do it to get the best results.

First, he suggests seeding before August 15, and second, it is important that the soil has all moisture possible. To keep the moisture, the land should be worked often enough to kill weeds as they appear. But keep the soil in a firm condition. A third suggestion is to make sure the soil contains sufficient lime to give a neutral or slightly alkaline reaction and that there are good supplies of available phosphorus and potash. Decker says 300 to 500 pounds per acre of a fertilizer high in these plant foods will usually pay big dividends.

Alfalfa is usually planted where it is advisable to cultivate to kill weeds, or where the soil is not productive enough to carry small grain crops.

If the soil is likely to blow, a light seeding of one-half bushel of oats per acre will help. If smooth bromine grass is to be seeded with the alfalfa, the bromine grass can be mixed with the oats. To insure quick germination the seeding should be made very shallow. Poor stands of bromine grass will result if seed is put more than a half inch below the surface — even on sandy soils. Outpack the soil after seeding.

The Michigan State college specialist recommends 5 to 8 pounds of alfalfa per acre. If bromine grass is seeded with the alfalfa, use 8 pounds of alfalfa and 3 to 4 pounds of bromine grass.

METAL ROOFING DEMONSTRATION TO BE HELD

Arrangements have been completed by Lyn Lewis, County 4-H Club Agent to hold a metal roofing conservation demonstration on the farm of Donald Clark, in White Lake Township, at 8:30 a.m. on July 5th.

Everything that is necessary to put a metal roof into first class shape to shelter farm crops and livestock will be effectively demonstrated by A. J. Bell, extension agricultural engineer, of Michigan State College and Charles Matthews, field representative of the

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