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# FARM FEATURES

## 4-H Promotion Program Opens In Farmington

4-H Club members and leaders in the Farmington community will receive greater assistance in promoting the 4-H Club program as a result of County Club Leader Lyn Lewis being assigned to Oakland County as a full time agent this month. Previously Lewis served Oakland and Macomb County on alternate weeks. Local club leaders working with Mr. Lewis in promoting and developing 4-H club work among the 217 members in this locality are as follows: Mrs. Mabel B. Grace, Rt. 2, Box 32, Farmington, Mary Jane Lewis, Milford and Mr. Roland Allmand, South Lyon.

## MICHIGAN DHIA KEEPS PACE WITH NATIONAL AVERAGE

The annual report of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association shows that results in Michigan correspond very closely to those of the whole United States.

The Bureau of Dairy Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture says that the records of the 400,000 DHIA cows in the nation show 5,522 pounds of milk and 346 pounds of butterfat per cow per year.

Michigan figures are equally impressive. According to L. A. Johnson, dairyman at Michigan State College, the 20,000 DHIA cows in Michigan averaged 5,487 pounds of milk and 344 pounds of butterfat per cow per year.

The record practices adopted by DHIA members are credited with gradually putting more cows in the higher producing classes. Twenty years ago one half of the herd association cows in Michigan States produced less than 375 lbs. of butterfat each per year. Three-fourths of the cows now produce more than that.

In Michigan, DHIA cows that produced at the rate of 200 pounds of butterfat yielded a return of only \$78 above feed costs. High producers that gave 400 pounds of butterfat yielded a return above feed costs of \$213. This is more than the figure for 400 pound producers in the United States. Labor costs are not figured in these calculations.

## County Pioneer Group Will Meet In Pontiac

The seventy-third annual meeting of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society is to be held in Stevens Hall of All Saints Episcopal Church, Pontiac, on February 21. A social hour will be held from 11:00 a.m. until noon, with lunch served at 12:30. Reservations must be in by February 14, and can be sent to Mrs. H. P. Goring, 214 Pike Street, Pontiac, phone 2-0087, or Mrs. G. H. Kimball Jr., Waterford, phone 3-2385.

The program will consist of music by the Boys Club of Eastern Junior High School of Pontiac under the direction of Mrs. D. B. Hoggins. Miss Betty Roberts of WILK will give a talk on "The Restoration of Williamsburg."

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## CONSERVATION SAVES LAND



The same land, but with different treatment. The upper picture shows the field before it was given conservation treatment and was divided by the wind. The lower picture shows the field now terraced and contour farmed to conserve water and check water erosion, and with crop residue managed properly so that the land is protected from the winds during the period between crops.

## CHECK INSURANCE ON BUILDINGS, FARMERS WARNED

The buildings on many Michigan farms could not be replaced or repaired with the amount of money for which they are insured. Higher costs of labor and material to rebuild make any fire or wind losses greater today than before the war.

N. L. Smith, extension specialist in farm management at Michigan State college, advises farmers to get their insurance policies out and do a little figuring. Preventative measures alone will not eliminate fire or wind and a well planned insurance program will reduce financial loss if disaster should strike. A recent study of 187 Michigan farms shows that three-fourths of the farm owners have increased the insurance on their buildings since 1939 by about 35 per cent. Although the insurance has been increased by 35 per cent, building costs have increased 70 per cent in the same period. This wide difference in increased building costs and insurance shows the additional risk that most farm owners have.

Smith says the study shows that, on the average, the fire insurance carried at present would pay about 43 per cent of the farmers' estimated cost (1945) of replacing the buildings. Wind insurance would cover about 38 percent of the 1946 replacement costs. Farmers in either case would have to bear about 60 percent of the loss themselves.

A careful study of present cov-

## BAILEY URGES FARMERS TO BUY ALFALFA SEED NOW

The chances are that this year, the alfalfa seed you buy may not have been produced in Michigan. Last year's production in the state will take care of less than half of the amount normally planted by Michigan farmers.

County Agricultural Agent Karl D. Bailey warns that you should be very careful when buying seed to make sure that it is adapted to Michigan growing conditions. Unfortunately, the rest of the northern states did not produce sufficient seed for their use, either, and much seed that was produced in the central states will have to be used. Seed grown in these states is not as hardy, but it can be expected to yield nearly as well as Michigan seed for a year or two, if you have not yet secured your seed, your choices should be made in about this order:

1. Certified Hardigan, Grimm or Ladak.
2. Uncertified Michigan or Canadian grown.
3. Common alfalfa from Northern United States.
4. Common alfalfa from central United States.

County agent Karl Bailey recommends that you obtain your alfalfa seed now. If you wait until time to sow, you may have to take seed that is not too well suited to Michigan conditions or you may be left without any seed.

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## HE ADDED YEARS TO YOUR LIVING



This man who was born one hundred years ago this week spent most of those years working to make our lives easier. Today, we are apt to take his achievements for granted—to forget the wondrous changes he made in our daily lives. The stenographer little realizes the drudgery of office routine without typewriter or duplicating machine; the saleswoman can hardly imagine a busy day without gummed wrapping tape.

The list of his achievements is long and varied, but most of us have some special obligation to Thomas A. Edison. Every worker who finds his lunch-time sandwich fresh in its waxed-paper wrapping—every one who crossed an ocean safely with the aid of radar and submarine detection devices—can thank Mr. Edison.

But these specific contributions of the man become small and insignificant alongside his other gifts to all mankind. For every one of us who sends a telegram or rides a street car—everyone who enjoys a radio, a photograph or a movie—can thank Mr. Edison.

Some of these gifts have made our lives safer. Some have given us more pleasure. Most have made our tasks easier. But all are eclipsed by his gift of electric light. For with that one invention he, in a very real sense, added years to our living. Those years are made up of thousands of evenings... and since Mr. Edison's invention of electric light, evenings—with their hours of relaxation, of reading or games or good companionship—have become the best part of our lives.

Evenings have also become a time for study. Men and women today, fired by the example of Thomas A. Edison, are using them to continue his research for even better ways of living.

**IN HONOR OF MR. EDISON**  
 The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, this week inaugurates a new series of popular concerts each Tuesday night at 7:30 over WJR.  
 And don't forget the Edison Exhibit at Museum's special exhibit this week at Grand Old Michigan Museum, 1000 Woodward Ave. All Edison power plants will also be open this week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Call RA-4-2100 for details.

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