

Water is an important part of poultry raising. MSO poultrymen say a supply of fresh water should always be available near the mash feeders.

Farm account books provide an analysis of the farm business.

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HONEYBEES HELP IN ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

Up until the last few years Michigan has been one of the leading states in the nation in the production of alfalfa seed, but when there are off seasons affecting the activities of the honeybee there is usually a big change in the production of this crop such as has been experienced in the past few years, states Charles Figg, Director, State Department of Agriculture. Wet, cool weather during blossoming time of all important nectar-sucking blossoms not only affects the supply of honey expected but with some of our crops makes a big difference in the amount of seed produced.

Grass Cover Plan Best For Orchards

Savings of labor and better performance of most deciduous tree fruits are some of the benefits of a permanent grass cover system for orchards.

Karl D. Bailey, County agricultural agent, suggests that farmers who are now using the clean cultivation-over crop system may be interested in changing to the permanent grass cover system.

Michigan State college tests have shown that in orchards subject to water erosion, the grass cover system has helped in control. A suitable soil culture with mulch has given better results from most deciduous tree fruits.

N. L. Partridge and C. M. Harrison, members of the horticulture and farm crops departments at MSC, list apple, pear, plum, and cherry orchards as the most adapted to the grass cover system. This system is recommended for peach trees only when the trees are on a rapidly eroding hillside, since the peach trees are less tolerant of grass cover.

Early spring, from the time the surface soil thaws until May 1, is a good time for grass seedling. Seedlings later than May generally result in a poor stand or complete failure of the grass. Late summer seedlings from August 15 to September 15 also give good results.

County agricultural agent Karl D. Bailey says the county extension office can supply further information on the kinds of grasses best adapted to Oakland county, fertilization methods and general cultural suggestions.

Employer's liability insurance also offers protection to the farmer. This is essentially a liability policy which protects a farmer against claims arising from the injury or death of an employee. Policies of this type provide no automatic benefits except hospitalization benefits written into some policies. Further compensation depends upon the investigation by the representatives of the insurance company. Rates for this insurance vary a great deal between companies and type of policy issued.

FRED GARLICK

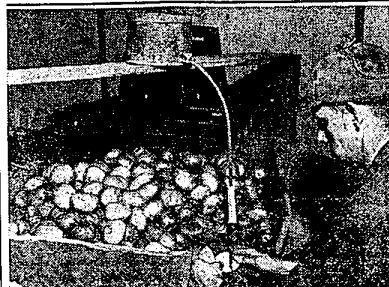
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FARM FEATURES

Home Made MSC Device Controls Potato Ring-Rot



A simple and inexpensive method to control ring-rot disease in potatoes has been worked out by L. Carl Knorr, extension specialist in plant pathology at Michigan State college. By using an old can or crock, to which a petcock is attached near the bottom to control the flow of disinfectant, corrosive sublimate is allowed to trickle down over the stationary cutting knife. The disinfectant flows through a flexible rubber hose and through a kerosene lamp which is attached to the top of the stationary cutting knife. The pathologist explains that ring-rot bacteria are usually transferred from infected potatoes to healthy seed tubers in the process of cutting. The germs ride through on the surface of the cut surface of the potatoes where they cause the ring-rot.

PLAN PROTECTION FOR DAIRY HERD DURING SUMMER

Hot summer days, which cut dairy production and lower fat tests, need not be too serious this summer if the dairymen follow advice given by Dr. Earl Weaver, head of the dairy department at Michigan State college.

Weaver explains that on the hot days cows should be brought in from pasture at noon and allowed to run all afternoon in a darkened shed or barn. Usually if permitted, the cows will come in of their own accord. After the evening's milking, they are turned back to pasture. Hay can be fed in the shed during the afternoon. Any barn or shed that is dark or can be darkened works well. Flies will leave the cows in the dark and go to the light. Burial, tipped up sheds, can be hung across the door to help darken the shed and also dislodge some flies as the cows enter. Windows may be replaced with burlap or painted with a dark paint. The floor of the shed should be bedded.

Although it may be warm in the darkened shed on hot afternoons, the cows will be more comfortable than in the sun or huddled in the shade of a tree. If no shed is available, Weaver advised putting cows in their stanchions on hot afternoons. This requires more bedding and labor than when cows are put in a shed.

FARM EMPLOYEES MAY BE COVERED BY FEDERAL ACT

Spring operations on Michigan farms will meet increased bird help and a greater possibility of accidents, warns N. L. Smith, specialist in farm management at Michigan State college.

Possible claims by employees for injuries sustained while working can mean a cash outlay for the farmer-employer. If it is proven that negligence on the employer's part caused the accident, he can be required by the court to compensate the injured employee.

A recent study, conducted by the MSC farm management department showed that very few farmers carry insurance to financially protect themselves in case of injury to hired help.

Two methods are open to farmers who wish to insure against claims resulting from injury to their employees. Farmers carrying workman's compensation insurance on their employees are automatically included under the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1915. With this type of policy, the employee is protected through benefits provided under the act. The farmer, as the employer, is protected since his insurance will pay the benefits. Employees are eligible only for benefits provided by the act and cannot seek further damages. Rates for this insurance at present are about \$2.53 per \$100 of payroll.

REDUCE LOSS OF SEEDINGS WITH PROPER FERTILIZER

Loss of new seedlings, which approaches 500,000 acres per year in Michigan, is traceable to unadapted seed and poor agricultural practices in many cases, says Karl D. Bailey, county agricultural agent for Oakland County.

Seedling failure generally comes from inadequate supplies of lime and fertilizer in the soil, poor seed and preparation, using undegraded seed, or covering seed too deep.

The use of emergency pasture is expensive and breaks up the regular rotation. Care should be taken to insure good seedlings of the more desirable hay and pasture grasses.

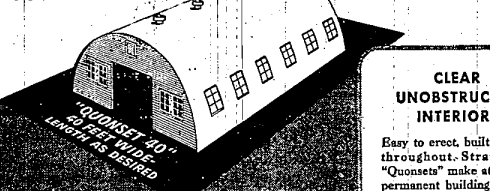
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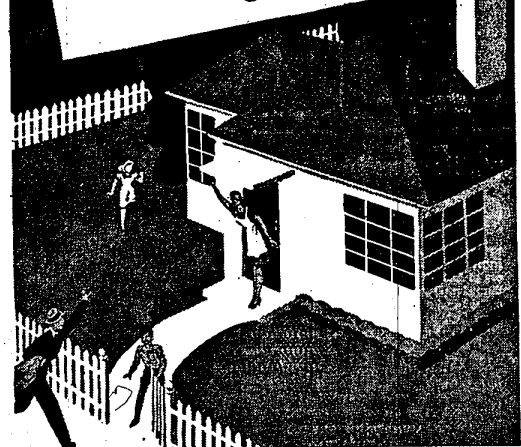
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