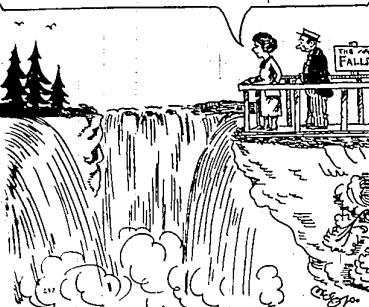


# FARM FEATURES

**Cause of Blindness**  
A communicable disease that often results in blindness is trachoma, in which the eyelids become granulated, thickened, and red. This can be treated with sulfa drugs.

**Soybean Booms in Illinois**  
Soybeans were introduced into Illinois in 1898. They have grown to be a major crop, occupying 3,500,000 acres in Illinois with a production of over 70,000,000 bushels of beans a year.

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## MSC EXPERIMENTS IN CALF FEEDING FOR BEST PROFITS

Fleshy calves make more profitable gains if started on grain by mid-summer while thinner cattle continue to use pasture effectively until early September.

These and other findings have been reported by the Michigan State College Experiment Station as a result of identical experiments carried on for two years by George A. Brannaman and Carter Harrison, animal husbandry and farm crops specialists.

The project, conducted to determine the maximum use of roughage and pasture by steers, showed that lightly wintered calves, grazed three months on pasture without grain and fed for four months before marketing, made the most profitable gains. These steers made a return of \$20.45 each above cost of calf and feed.

Least profitable in the 1946-47 season was a lot of well-wintered, grazed for two months and fed for 100 days. Steers in this lot made only \$6.36 each above cost of calf and feed. In the 1944-45 test, however, this was the most profitable of all lots.

Labor and interest on investment was not charged in either case.

In the wintering phase of the experiment, which was from December 27, 1945 to June 4, 1946, four different rations were fed. Most profitable was the lot fed corn, silage with soybeans meal and a limited corn ration of approximately one pound per head per day. Gaining about a pound per day, the cost per 100 pounds gained amounted to \$11.56.

The most expensive winter ration was 5.7 pounds of corn and 11.8 pounds of alfalfa hay. Gains cost \$15.20 per hundredweight.

## Important Tips On Grain Shortage

Grain harvest is not too far in the future. County agricultural agent Karl D. Bailey advised that spare time can be profitably used in preparing bins for storage of grain.

For safe storage, the first requirement is a bin which has been thoroughly cleaned. All old wheat or grain should be removed and the bin swept clean. The second step is to make the bin tight so insects and rodents cannot enter. After those two chores are done, spraying for the control of weevils and other insects should be begun.

For grains stored for feed or cereal purposes, a spray containing five percent or less of DDT in refined, deodorized kerosene or in water suspensions, or emulsions should be used. It should be applied to the walls and woodwork at a rate of not more than one gallon of spray per 1,000 square feet. The spray should be thoroughly dry before grain is put in the bin.

If the grain is to be stored for seed purposes, a different treatment should be used. Dust of 3 percent DDT in pyrophyllite, thoroughly mixed with the seed, applied at the rate of one-half ounce of dust to one bushel of seed, is the proper treatment. Three percent DDT in magnumite, applied in the same manner, is also effective. These methods are not recommended for stored grains or cereal products to be used for food.

Under normal conditions, these precautions will take care of insects. If abnormal infestations arise and fumigation becomes necessary, agent Karl D. Bailey's office should be consulted.

## Rural Leadership Course Now Being Held At MSC

A rural leadership course for pastors, teachers, and farm organization leaders is being held at Michigan State College July 7th through 18th.

MSC faculty members and extension personnel will discuss issues and problems facing rural life. Classes and forum meetings will emphasize the importance of the rural community and the relationship of agricultural agencies to rural people.

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**FARMALL CUB FOR PLOWING**—International Harvester's new Farmall Cub tractor offers the small-acreage farmer the advantage of complete, low-cost mechanization. It is designed to handle all field and garden crop operations. The above view shows a Cub-172 moldboard plow turning a 12-inch furrow.

## PAVED BARNYARDS SERVE STOCK BEST IN BAD WEATHER

Many farmers who have watched mud holes with stones in them through muddy barn yards this spring are saying "never again", and making plans for hard surfacing at least part of the yard.

Surfacing with gravel or filling mud holes with stones is often wasted time and effort. The stones or gravel soon become embedded in the top soil, and the yard is as muddy as before. Paving as large an area as is possible with concrete is a more practical method.

George Amundson, extension agricultural engineer at Michigan State College, says that the amount of pavement required will depend on the size of yard and type of livestock. A larger yard and more paving may be desirable for feeder cattle than for dairy cattle. The amount of surface can vary from a completely paved yard to a strip near the barn and around the water tank.

County agricultural agents can give details of paving for farm barn yards.

## IMPROPER STORAGE OF LIQUIDS CAUSES BURNS, EXPLOSIONS

Burns and explosions on Michigan farms accounted for approximately one out of every three farm accidents last year, points out Fred Roth, farm safety specialist at Michigan State College. Nearly one-half of these were fatal.

One of the important features of Farm Safety Week, July 20 to 23, should be a careful check of inflammable liquid storage. Roth states that there are three methods of storing these liquids on farms. They can be kept in underground tanks, in safe elevated tanks, or in tanks in separate buildings that are used only for that purpose.

Outside containers must be kept at least 50 feet from buildings, haystacks, and other combustible materials. If these containers are kept inside, nothing except the inflammable liquid should be stored in the building and the 50 foot rule should be observed. All containers for gasoline must be painted bright red.

## GOOD MILKHOUSE PROVIDES SPACE FOR DAIRY CHORES

During the last three or four years when the demand for milk and milk products was very large, the production of milk was encouraged by the government and other organizations. Many farmers enlarged their herds and because of the increased production, milk was often handled and stored in places that had not previously been used. Higher bacteria counts and unclean milk were sometimes the results.

James S. Boyd, agricultural engineer at Michigan State College, says that an efficient, well-planned milk house is one of the best steps toward clean milk that a farmer can make.

Milkhouses, whether new or remodeled, should provide first of all a place to handle and store the milk as it comes from the cows. Adequate cooling facilities should be provided in the milkhouse so that the milk can be cooled to 50 degrees in an hour. Another necessary function of a milkhouse is to provide a place to clean equipment used in the handling of milk. This will eliminate the bother of washing pails, milkers, and other equipment in the kitchen. Finally, the milkhouse must provide room to store milking equipment when it is not being used. Equipment, no matter how clean, will not stay clean long if it is stored in one corner of the feed room or some place in the barn.

Pointing out that convenience is important, Boyd lists the following things to consider in locating a milkhouse:

1. Keep it close to the place where the cows are milked.
2. Locate it where the land is dry or can be graded and made dry.
3. Locate it so that you do not have to go through the milkhouse to get into the barn.
4. Be sure it is near a good supply of water.

## Packing Eggs

Eggs should be packed in standard 15 or 30 dozen egg cases. Cases should be in good condition, have clean, firm fillers and flats and full covers for tops of cases. Do not pack any cracked, broken, or abnormally shaped or badly stained eggs.

## Brush Teeth Often

Care of the teeth is one of the five major divisions of good grooming, and taking the time to brush and clean your teeth will repay you in comfort and appearance. It is not even necessary to buy tooth-paste or powder—you have one of the best of dentifrices right in your kitchen cabinet. Many dentists recommend a mixture of 2 parts salt and 3 parts soda. You can use the mixture unflavored, or flavored with a few drops of winter green or peppermint. Often a piece of dental floss is useful in cleaning between the teeth. A small tube obtainable from any drug store will supply your entire family for quite a while.

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