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MICHIGAN'S DHIA DAIRY COWS BEAT NATION'S AVERAGE

Michigan's dairy cows continue to rank above the nation's average according to L. A. Johnson, Michigan State college extension dairy specialist.

Records compiled under the Dairy Herd Improvement Association program for Michigan show Michigan dairy cows produced an average of 8,591 pounds of milk and 350 pounds of butterfat. That's only those animals under the DHIA program. The average dairy cow in Michigan produces only about 210 pounds of butterfat a year.

The national average of cows under Dairy Herd Improvement Association tests is 524 pounds of milk and 249 pounds of butterfat.

By following three simple practices DHIA members in Michigan have increased the average butterfat production by 33 points since 1930. Here are the three practices:

Herd records are used to cull out low-producing cows. Cows in production in the herd are fed according to the DHIA recommendation as shown by production records.

The best animals in their herds are selected as breeding stock to improve the inheritance of their future herds for high production.

IMPORTED NURSERY STOCK REQUIRES STATE INSPECTION

Inasmuch as large quantities of nursery stock being imported from other countries have been found to be diseased, insect-infested, or in such poor condition as to not give satisfaction when planted, the State Department of Agriculture calls attention of the buying public to Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act No. 189 which requires: "Every person receiving directly or indirectly any nursery stock from a foreign country shall notify the Commissioner of Agriculture of the arrival of such shipment, of the content thereof, and the name of the consignor, and shall hold such shipment in the original container not over 10 days, within which time such shipment shall be duly inspected or released by the Commissioner of Agriculture."

According to C. A. Boyer, Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, inspection of such foreign stock has revealed that a majority of it is diseased, or otherwise infested, particularly Dutch Iris bulbs which have been found to be heavily infested with eel worm (*Ditylenchus dipsaci*), making it necessary to condemn numerous shipments of such stock.

In order that inspection service may be expedited, it is urged that every purchaser realize his obligation to notify the Director of Agriculture Charles Figy, or C. A. Boyer of the Bureau of Plant Industry, of the arrival of foreign nursery stock, so that shipments found to be apparently free from dangerous insects and contagious diseases may be released.

SIX PRECAUTIONS MAY SAVE LOSSES OF LITTLE PIGS

Michigan swine producers, who lost an unusually large number of pigs from spring litters this year, hope to help relieve the present meat shortage and prevent heavy losses this fall and next spring.

W. N. McMillen, Michigan State college swine specialist, says some agricultural experiment stations show that six precautionary measures will cut losses. He lists them as follows:

1. Feed sows a liberal, well-balanced ration during pregnancy. Include protein meal, alfalfa meal and minerals in the diet. Give them free access to water with the chill taken off.
2. Encourage sows to take a moderate amount of exercise daily during pregnancy by locating feeding troughs some distance from their sleeping quarters.
3. Provide clean, dry and warm quarters.
4. Prevent pneumonia losses by avoiding overcrowding and dusty floors and providing proper ventilation without drafts.
5. Keep sows comfortable, clean, free from lice and mites by treating for lice and mange before the weather gets severely cold.
6. Have the new pigs vaccinated against hog cholera before any outbreaks of cholera begin.

At present prices, little pigs are worth a lot of money. Saving one extra pig from each litter may mean the difference between profit and a loss in swine feeding operations.

Purchasing shade or fruit trees from your local nurseryman has its advantages, according to F. L. O'Rourke, Michigan State college horticulturist. They can be planted soon after digging time and this will not allow the roots to dry out.

Botanist Finds Spray To Kill Crabgrass

Spray material that gives promise of killing crabgrass and does not damage bluegrass, clover and other lawn grasses has been found by Dr. B. H. Grigsby, Michigan state college research botanist.

The spray material isn't on the market and perhaps will not be for a year or more. Further tests must be made to determine the recommendations for its most effective and practical use.

Preliminary tests were promising enough to indicate the oil base spray material may answer the previously unsolved problem of crabgrass eradication by chemical means.

The oil base spray is an experimental material developed by the Standard Oil Company (Indiana) which is supporting a part of the research conducted by Dr. Grigsby for the Michigan State College Agricultural Experiment Station.

Young crabgrass dies in from 5 to 10 days when sprayed with this product. So do other grasses like foxtail. But the perennial grasses — the ones you like in your lawn — are practically undamaged. The killer has shown no indications of lasting effect on bluegrass, Bermuda, fescues, red top, orchard grass, clovers, bent grass or perennial ryegrass.

Merits of the spray on crops have not been determined but experiments are under way to find if it can be used in killing crabgrass in nursery crops, cotton and corn without damaging the crops.

Dr. Grigsby has found the oil base spray compatible with broadleaf weed killers like the ester of 2, 4-D.

There's an abundance of good soil-improving organic material in the leaves you annually rake and burn each fall. Michigan State college soil specialists advise that you put them into a compost pile and make use of the humus they will supply next summer and fall.

Annual "Week" Show Revived

One thousand Michigan farmers will help plan the program for the revived Farmers' Week to be held on the campus of Michigan State college, East Lansing, January 26 to 30.

Dean Ernest L. Anthony of the school of agriculture has sent a letter to representative farmers who have attended previous sessions asking for suggestions for programs and arrangements. Letters went to farmers in every county in Michigan. For more than a quarter-century prior to 1945, Farmers' Week attracted as many as 25,000 farm people at the time to MSU campus sessions.

When crowded campus conditions and travel restrictions made it impossible to hold the program in 1946, Farmers' Week was dropped. It was announced last spring, however, that the program would be resumed.

Dean Anthony explained that it was impossible to send a letter seeking recommendations to all farmers, but he and his committee would appreciate hearing from anyone with suggestions regarding the Farmers' Week program.

Committees have been named and are at work on arranging the program and the many details for the various contests, livestock exhibits, meetings of state associations and entertainment and speaking programs.

State College Lab Designated As Agent

The research laboratory of the department of horticulture at Michigan State college has been designated as a screening agency for new chemicals with possible growth or antibiotic properties.

The recognition came through the Chemical-Biological Coordinating Center of the National Research Council. Horticulturists at Michigan State college have taken an active lead in both fields of antibiotics and growth regulators as they affect horticultural plants.

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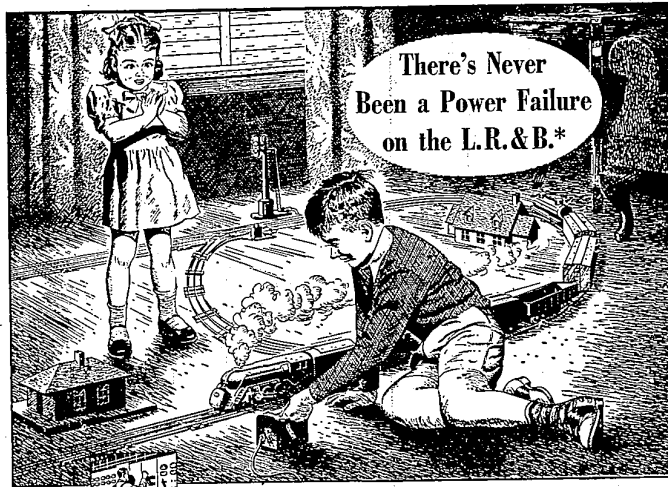
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