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FRUIT THINNING IMPROVES QUALITY INCREASES SIZE

"Many people think that the marketing problems of fruit begin after the harvest, but this is not so," declares Dr. H. Dr. Tukey, head of the department of horticulture, at Michigan State college.

He explains that wise growers know that every practice they follow affects the marketing of their fruit. For this reason, they are constantly on the alert for methods of improving the size, quality and yield of their products. In this manner, they can offer better fruits to the consumer and make greater returns for themselves.

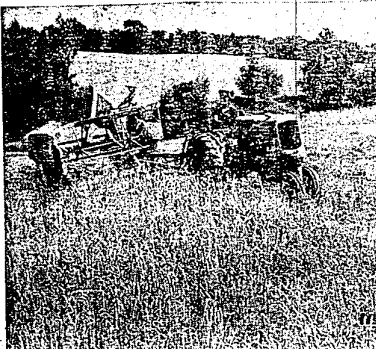
One old discovery which has found modern practice is thinning. It began in the middle 1830's, relates the specialist. An apple grower in Salem, Massachusetts, Robert Manning, found that his Baldwin trees were bearing fruit every two years. One spring, he went through his orchard and pulled the blossoms off every other tree. The untouched trees bore fruit that year, and the following year the other half of the orchard produced a crop. Since that time, other practices have been developed to assure a crop on every tree every year so that none of the orchard must stand idle.

But Robert Manning's simple experiment of removing blossoms from the trees has found new advantages in better size and quality of fruit. Dr. Tukey explains that modern techniques involve chemical sprays or pole thinning.

Growers who do not wish to thin their peaches with chemical sprays may use the pole method. For this, a 12 to 18 inch length of galvanized hose is attached to a 5 or 6 foot bamboo pole with 5 to 8 inches of the hose extending beyond the pole. The grower then angles to the flexible piece of rubber to jar the branch and allow a certain percentage of the peaches to fall.

Dr. Tukey explains that this method of thinning should be used immediately after the June drop. If time and labor are available, hand thinning can be continued throughout the season as fruit development requires. Earlier thinning, however, produces better size and quality of peaches.

Spring Pasture Fertilization Will Help Solve Feed Shortage, Save Needed Grain



Big Grain Crops and Conservation of Farm Grain Are Still a 1948 'Must'.

CHICAGO—With a continuance of the critical "pinch" in feed supplies during the spring and summer months, pasture fertilization will be number one item in farm planning this spring, according to the Middle West Soil Improvement Committee, in a statement made public here.

"The stringency of the feed situation is indicated by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson's recent request that farmers 'stretch their grain supplies as never before in the months ahead,'" says the statement. "He warned that there can be no letup in farm grain conservation between now and next harvest."

"Millions of bushels of sorghum needed when he saved if farmers get their pastures into higher yielding condition. These pastures will 'pinch hit' for scarce, high priced grains."

"Leading the list of steps to boost pasture output should be measures that will get you sturdy catches of alfalfa and sweet clover. Such measures should include liming, based on soil tests, the use of fertilizers carrying phosphorus and potash and the return of manure and crop residues to the soil."

"Good pasture is your cheapest source of feed high in proteins and minerals."

County Grass Days Program To Feature Modern Machinery

The Grass Day Program to be held at the Middleton farm on June 11 will feature an exhibit of the latest in forage crop machinery, according to Karl D. Bailey, county agricultural agent.

The farm is located 2 miles east of Lake Orion and farmers who attend the Grass Day may expect an interesting program. A. J. Bell, Michigan State college agricultural engineer, reports that farm machinery companies are cooperating in supplying many types of machines.

Among the featured equipment will be a grass shredder attached to a cultipacker, to be demonstrated as an improved way of seeding alfalfa, brome and many other small seeds. The device helps to prevent too deep coverage.

Balers which tie with twine and wire, and types that make round bales will be demonstrated. The choppers will crush green hay, dry hay, or may be converted to field chopping of corn silage.

Of special interest will be the hay crusher set of rollers mounted back of the knives through which the hay passes as it is cut.

The rollers crack the stems and allow them to dry out as rapidly as do the leaves. For ensiling, it allows a more rapid wilting; for baling, more rapid and even curing; for chopping, more rapid and even drying; and for long hay, more rapid and even drying. It results in the saving of many leaves and sometimes allows a crop to be put in the barn before a rain.

Several types of power unloading wagons will be shown. Some will have a canvas bottom that rolls up on a roller and others will have an endless apron or a movable end gate. Both electric and gas driven engines will be shown with them.

In the event of rainy weather, announcement of any postponement of the event will be made on the Farm News Digest program over WJLB, the broadcasting station of Michigan State College at 7:15 a.m. the day the event is regularly scheduled.

Clip cows regularly to prevent dirt from clinging to long hair on flanks and udders, MSC dairymen advise.

NEW VACCINE TO BE TESTED ON DAIRY HERDS

Dr. I. Forest Huddleson's new brucellosis vaccine developed at Michigan State college is soon to be tested on dairy herds in several states.

The large scale test will be on a 65-head dairy herd at Charleston, W. Va., under the direction of state veterinarians of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland and Virginia.

R. J. Funkhouser, industrialist and West Virginia farm owner, is making available all the facilities of a 160-acre farm. His contribution may exceed \$50,000 when the cost of purchase of 65 Brucellosis-free heifers, labor and feed expense is added. The test will require a year or more to further determine the value of Brucella M vaccine.

Dr. T. C. Green, state veterinarian of West Virginia, heads the committee which will select a veterinarian to be stationed at the farm and conduct all tests.

Dr. Huddleson was contacted by the committee which obtained a permit from the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industries for shipment of the vaccine outside Michigan. He will probably visit the test farm when called upon by the group.

Michigan dairymen have been able to obtain the vaccine through their veterinarians since last fall. More than 20,000 inoculations have been produced by the Michigan State college laboratory.

State veterinarians in Ohio, Tennessee and Virginia have also obtained permission to conduct some special tests with the new vaccine on specific herds within their states, Dr. Huddleson said.

CLASSIFIEDS MUST BE GOOD - SO MANY PEOPLE USE THEM

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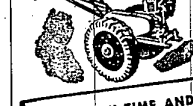


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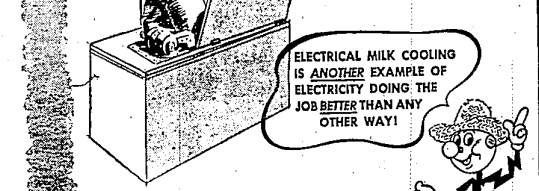
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