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Erosion Hits All Farms, Soil Specialist Says

Erosion taking place over the fence on the neighbor's farm always looks worse than that occurring on your own farm. That is the observation of R. G. Hill, secretary of the state soil conservation committee and Michigan State college extension specialist.

"The small 'bite' of soil removed by each rain is not noticed until after a time when this grain, short corn or wheat becomes noticeable," Hill commented.

He suggests that it would pay every Michigan farmer to take a half-day after a heavy rain and make a foot tour of his farm. It may suggest to some of them, he thinks, that all of the erosion isn't taking place "across the fence."

Watch Cows For Weight In Summer

Watch your dairy cows for a loss of body weight during summer months was a warning given dairy-men today by Karl D. Bailey, county agricultural agent for Oakland county.

There are several factors which may cause dairy animals to lose weight, but the main one is a lack of feed. Too often pastures become inadequate to carry the number of animals being grazed, the agent warns.

Other factors causing the loss of body weight in dairy cows include high temperatures, high humidity, lack of water supply, flies and irregular milking due to press of farm work.

Cows should be milked as near to 12 hours apart as possible. But County Agent Bailey believes the span from morning to night often runs near 14 hours and from night to morning 10 hours during heavy farming months.

Cows that lose body weight in the summer often drop in milk production. They will go into the winter months in poor condition and then it will take lots of silage, hay and expensive feed to bring them back to top shape, the agent reminds.

HORSE SHOW TO END SECOND ANNUAL 4-H CLUB FAIR

The final program of the Oakland County 4-H Club and Agricultural Fair to be held in Pontiac August 10-14 will be an open class horse show organized in cooperation with the Jimmy Day Post of the Am-Vets. The horse show will be held Saturday, August 14 and will provide 16 classes throughout the day's program. The show will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will run until 10:00 p.m. with time out for two grandstand stage attractions.

The Oakland County 4-H and Agricultural Fair together with the horse show will be held at the 4-H Club Farm on Perry Street in the northeast corner of Pontiac. 2500 4-H Club members will be exhibiting their 4-H Club projects during the week.

Diseases Found In Wheat And Oat Fields

Diseases in wheat and oat fields in Michigan have been found this summer by plant disease inspectors, according to Ed Andrews, extension specialist in plant pathology at Michigan State College.

Severe infections of Victoria blight were found in fields of Victorian oats in southern Michigan. Andrews said losses may be heavy from this fungus which rots the stems so they crinkle and finally collapse. There is no control of the disease but the planting of varieties like Clinton and Eaton that are resistant is recommended. "Take-All," which causes the stunting and bleaching of the entire wheat plant, has also been reported in Michigan. The disease is often found in a field in which wheat followed wheat. This emphasizes the value of crop rotation. Andrews pointed out.

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FARM FEATURES

NEW TRACTOR SAFETY RIDE SEAT



LAFAYETTE, INDIANA — "No more back-breaking tractor rides!" says Phillip B. Senesce, shop foreman in the Agricultural Engineering Department of Purdue University. He is shown seated on a new type tractor seat which was installed nearly two years ago on a tractor used on the school's experimental farms.

Ingenuity Gets Early Tomatoes

Using an idea learned from Michigan State college research horticulturists and ingenuity on his own part, a St. Joseph county farmer or marketed field-grown tomatoes in June before other growers had blossoms.

Clinton Carter and his veteran son Russell living near White Pigeon, got into local markets this spring with home grown tomatoes fully a month ahead of other growers.

Early last winter they attended a meeting of the Michigan Vegetable Growers Association and heard S. H. Wittwer, MSC horticulturist, tell how the spraying of first blossoms with a plant hormone would cause an earlier set of tomatoes.

About the same time of the year the Carters heard of 9,000 old street car windows for sale in Chicago for ten cents each. They bought those windows and in February planted their lot beds with tomato seed. About mid-April, a month ahead of the normal planting date, the father and son set the tomato plants into the field.

Making an inverted V out of the window glasses by attaching them together at the top, they protected the rows from the cold and early frosts. They also used fertilizer containing minor elements in the six acre patch to boost the growth. By May 5, the first clusters of blossoms came and they were sprayed with plant hormone (para-chlorophenoxy-acetic acid).

By late June the Carters were marketing tomatoes in groceries in southwest Michigan from their own open fields. With only greenhouse produced and southern grown tomatoes on the market, the price received was high.

The Carters also use a portable irrigation system with their truck crops, pumping water from a stream on the farm.

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SUMMER TIPS FOR MANAGEMENT OF POULTRY GIVEN

Management of a flock of laying hens in the summer is far different than in winter according to J. M. Moore, Michigan State college extension poultryman.

Getting the birds to eat as much mash as possible is one of the summer management problems, and Moore believes cutting down on the scratch feed will bring this about. Feeding crumbly, wet mash in the middle of the day will also stimulate eating by the yearling hens. Only enough should be fed that the birds will clean it up in about fifteen minutes as wet mash left from day to day will cause digestive trouble and attract flies, Moore reports. Hens often have a tendency to get too fat and lazy if given too much grain in the summer.

Moore also reminds that plenty of fresh water and some shade is important for high summer egg production. "Remember that the egg is 64 per cent water and there is no quicker way to cut down production than to let the birds run out of water," Moore emphasized.

Plenty of ventilation in the laying house and around the perches where the birds roost at night is paramount in summer management. The extension poultryman points out that a hen which is not laying will eat enough feed in three months to raise a day old chick up to a producing pullet at six months.

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