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Second Ram Aids Spring Lamb Crop

Disappointment in next year's spring lamb crop can often be avoided by using a "check" ram as described by Graydon Blank, Michigan State College extension animal husbandry specialist.

After the main ram has been with the flock for five or six weeks another ram is turned with the flock. Occasionally the main ram turns out to be a non-breeder and the entire flock may fail to produce lambs. Each year a few flock owners sadly report such an experience.

Blank believes the best way to prevent such a condition is to trade rams with a neighbor for three or four weeks. Both parties will benefit since there is little chance that both rams will be non-breeders.

Other folks plan to buy a second ram and use a ram lamb to cover the flock following the main ram. Where two rams have been used and the flock divided, it is recommended that the rams be changed from one flock to the other after about five weeks. Another method is to bring the flocks and rams together, providing care is taken to see that the rams do not injure one another.

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Hampshire Tops At International Show



CROPSEY, ILL.—Here is the grand champion barrow over all breeds at the 1948 International Livestock Show Junior Feeding Contest. The pig, a Hampshire, weighed 210 pounds and is a firm, trim, nicely balanced Hampshire carrying a high per cent of the high-priced lean meat cuts of ham, loin and bacon. He was shown by 4-H club exhibitor Morris Pratt whose record is typical of the records made by Hampshires in the hands of the junior livestock enthusiasts of the nation. This barrow could well be considered an economy type in that he can be produced economically by the farmer and will yield a carcass worth a premium in dollars and cents—all in the same animal.

MICHIGAN BEHIND IN PRODUCTION OF POULTRY AND EGGS

A study of the recent summary and analysis of receipts of poultry and poultry products going into Detroit, as released by the Federal-State Market News Service, probably will surprise many, states Miles A. Nelson, Chief of the Bureau of Marketing and Enforcement, Michigan Department of Agriculture.

The analysis was made of all of the shipments of all poultry and poultry products going into Detroit during the year of 1947 from Michigan and other states. In 1947, more eggs were trucked into Detroit from Ohio than were trucked into the city from the entire state of Michigan. Michigan produced less than 40% of all the eggs sold in Detroit in 1947. Next in line after Ohio and Michigan in furnishing Detroit with eggs, were the states of Indiana, Minnesota and Illinois. The Federal-State Market News report shows that over a million cases of eggs were shipped into Detroit in 1947—only 400,000 cases came from Michigan farms.

The live state of Delaware shipped over five times as much dressed poultry into Detroit by truck in 1947 as was trucked from all Michigan farms. In the furnishing of dressed poultry for the Detroit market by both truck and rail, Minnesota ranked first, Illinois second, Delaware third, Nebraska fourth, Missouri fifth, and Michigan eleventh place. The state of Minnesota furnished nearly ten times more dressed poultry for Detroit than did the state of Michigan. Of more than 12,000,000 pounds of dressed poultry received in Detroit in 1947: Minnesota furnished over 2,000,000 and Michigan 267,000 pounds.

Of the 2,100,000 pounds of live poultry shipped into Detroit in the same period Canada furnished more than any state. Indiana ranked second and Michigan third. Receipts of live poultry from Canada exceeded receipts from Michigan by more than 2,000,000 pounds.

An analysis of this report would indicate that there is plenty of room for expansion of the poultry industry in Michigan with the Detroit market located within trucking distance of Michigan poultry producers.

CROP YIELDS ARE INCREASED WITH AID OF LEGUMES

Proof that soil building legumes contribute to increased yields of crops was offered this week by L. M. Turk, soils research scientist at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station.

On the Fadden Farm in Saginaw county, Michigan, an experiment set up by the MSC staff members has used alfalfa, sweet clover and red clover to help increase crop yields.

Seven different crop rotations, all including sugar beets, are being studied. All the rotations except one include a soil building legume crop. Where no legume has been grown, corn yields have been about twelve bushels an acre below fields where the rotation included alfalfa. Just before the corn in 1948, corn yields were 23 bushels per acre in the rotation containing no soil building legume, 47 where corn follows sweet clover, green manure, and 53 where corn follows one year of alfalfa.

The tests point out that alfalfa in the rotation has caused higher yields than as sweet clover or red clover. One year of alfalfa in a five year rotation has given as good results as two years.

A farm record book will help show the strengths and weaknesses of the farm business.

Dairy Herd Care Advised During Winter Months

Good care during the winter months is something that a dairy herd needs and deserves, believes George Parsons, extension dairyman at Michigan State College.

It's hard for a cow to keep up top production when standing around in a cold rain or snow. The cow that has to break a skin of ice before she can get a drink probably won't be interested in producing milk.

Give the cow's udder good care, the dairyman suggests. If it should become swollen or inflamed, check with a veterinarian for mastitis. Prompt diagnosis and treatment will help cut mastitis losses.

Treating for lice and grubs will make life a lot more pleasant for the herd and help maintain production, Parsons concluded.

Control and eradication of weeds in pastures is just as important as in crop land. Chemical weed control is often used in addition to other management methods to do the job.

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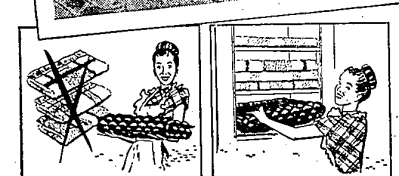
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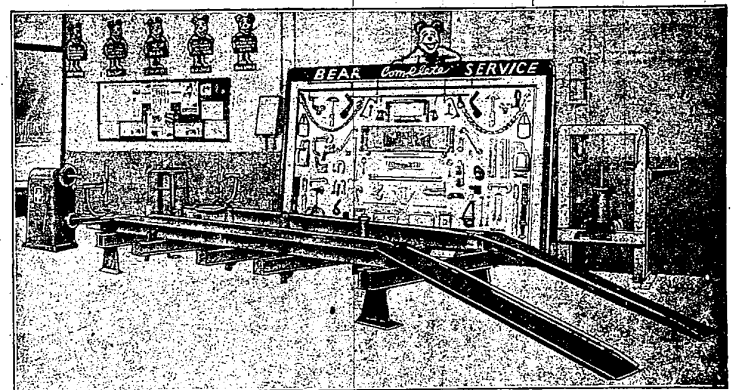
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