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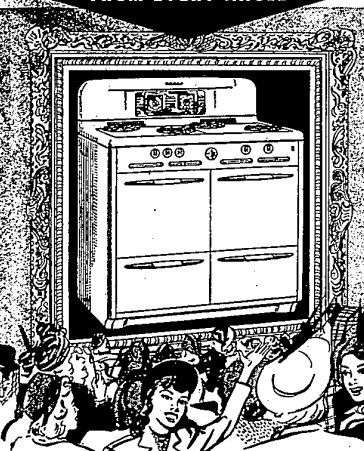
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Calendar Of Farm Events

January 13-15 — Annual Michigan Fruit Growers' association conference, Michigan State College campus.

January 18 — "Christmas Spirit Train" carrying Michigan's donations to Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP) will be dedicated at Durand.

January 21-25 — Farmer's Week, Michigan State College campus.

February 12 — Annual Wolverine Futurity Show and Sale, Michigan State College campus.

February 15 — Western Michigan Dairy Day Grand Rapids.

March 1-2 — Annual Michigan Irrigation conference, Michigan State College campus.

March 2-4 — Annual Allied Dairy convention, Grand Rapids.

March 4 — Annual Bred Gilt Sale, livestock pavilion, Michigan State College campus.

March 12-23 — Annual Convention Michigan Fur Breeders' association, Michigan State college campus.

March 12 — Annual Bred Gilt Sale, Western Michigan Swine Breeders' association, Lowell.

March 22-23 — Annual convention Michigan Future Farmers of America, Michigan State College campus.

March 24-25 — Annual convention Michigan Future Homemakers of America, Michigan State College campus.

Period Extended For Bean Crop Loan

Price support loans and purchase agreements on 1948-crop field beans will be available to producers through February 28, 1949. It has been announced by Production and Marketing officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The time was extended from the previous final date of December 31, 1948, because the large crop prevented processing of applications in some areas. County agricultural agents in Michigan producing areas and Agricultural Adjustment Administration offices can advise farmers regarding steps to follow to get their crop under loan or purchase agreement.

Soybean acreage in the United States increased from two million acres twenty years ago to an average of more than 13 million acres during the last five years.

Dairy and Livestock Headliners



John L. McKittick (left), Columbus, Ohio, dairyman, and C. P. Thompson, Oklahoma livestock authority, will be featured speakers at dairy and livestock events during Farmers' Week at Michigan State College. The annual winter event, which attracts more than 30,000 rural people to the MSC campus, will be held January 21 to 25. Dr. McKittick, a graduate veterinarian, who operates a 250 head Guernsey dairy farm, will discuss dairy herd management on Monday, January 24. Thompson will address the livestock banquet Wednesday night, January 26, and will also speak at the general session Tuesday afternoon, January 25. He is an animal husbandry specialist at Oklahoma A. & M. college, Stillwater.

Farmers Take A Long Look At 1949 In Making Plans For Extra Cash

What should the farmer do with his boom-time profits? Should he invest it in more land, put his excess cash in the bank, or spend it to raise his family's standard of living?

These questions are uppermost in the minds of many farm families as they take a long, hard look into 1949.

For most of the farmers of this country, 1948 was a great year. Collectively they had an estimated gross income of about \$41,200,000, 600 — the highest on record. Unless all studies go astray, it will be \$4,600,000,000 more than in 1947. Farmers, as a class, are "in the money". And here's what the experts have to say about the situation.

"Many farm people of the United States are in better financial condition than they ever have been previously. Their indebtedness is greatly reduced and their incomes lately have been exceptionally high. From their stand-point it makes sense to spend the extra cash for convenience, comfort and shorter working hours."

The Agricultural Committee on National Policy advises the farmer to fix up his home place, improve the house as well as the barn, and give mother, the children and himself a "break".

By nature, farmers are a hard working people. They have to be. For farming is a hard job. But it has been growing steadily easier in recent years.

Considerable credit for this "easing" of farm work belongs to electricity. The coming of the high-line has worked wonders, for it has brought to the farm a tireless "extra hand" who performs scores of production and household chores, with manual effort reduced to the flicking of a switch.

Electricity, however, still isn't being used near anything like its maximum extent. For example, only 38 per cent of the farm homes in this country had running water in 1947, while just 20 per cent had bathrooms. In a production way, many farmers still milk by hand, and hoist hay with the aid of an unburied team.

Scores of farmers still have a long road to travel before their homesteads are equal, in a modernization way, to their city-dwelling brothers.

However, 1949 is another year. If farm families follow the counsel of their leaders, traditional rural living and working habits are due for a change. Leisure will be mixed well with work, for time and labor-saving devices will be installed to take over many tedious chores.

Milk Production Higher From Fewer Dairy Cows

Michigan's population has increased more than 15 per cent since 1940. Dairy cow population in the state has decreased about 12 per cent. Per capita milk consumption is higher. Dairy authorities at Michigan State College report that higher production per animal, as a result of better breeding and research findings on feeding and management, has made this possible.

COMPETITION KEEN FOR STATE HONORS IN STOCK FEEDING

Competition for top honors in beef and swine feeding among Michigan livestock producers is keen this year. When champions are to be crowned in the annual feeding contests ending with the Farmers' Week show at Michigan State College January 26 and 27, judges are going to find picking the "top" winners a really tough assignment. Animal husbandry specialists at Michigan State College report some of Michigan's best feeders competing again this year. In the swine project, more than 450 August-born pigs were entered and more than 150 will qualify by making necessary gains. Swine champions will be picked on Wednesday morning. Three grand champion producers of the past four years and several who had bred champions at the recent International Livestock Show at Chicago will be among the contestants.

The steer show will be held on Thursday morning with about 60 head representing all breeds qualifying for the event. The sale of all swine and beef will be held Thursday afternoon at the livestock pavilion.

Livestock meetings are planned for both Tuesday and Wednesday. Horse breeders will meet on Tuesday for an educational program in the morning and a horse pulling exhibition in the afternoon. Three Michigan teams, each topping 4100 pounds, will compete.

Sheep, beef and swine breeders will hold meetings on Wednesday, January 26.

George Lockhart

Fellow American Society of Piano Technicians

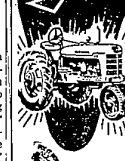
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