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LONG, CHOPPED OR BALED HAY

The DETROIT EDISON Co.

# FARM FEATURES

## Artificial Breeding Program Expanded

About 12 per cent of Michigan's dairy cows are now being bred artificially according to A. C. Baltor, secretary of the Michigan Artificial Breeders' Cooperative.

The organization, made up of 134 local associations in 65 Michigan counties, will hold its annual meeting March 31 at Michigan State College. On the college farm, the association's 60 bulls are housed and the central semen gathering laboratory is located.

Two years ago, only 62,000 of Michigan's dairy cows were being serviced artificially on the farms of 7,500 members. At the close of 1948, more than 120,000 cows were being serviced on dairy farms owned by nearly 17,000 Michigan dairymen.

## GOOD BABY CHICKS PAY MOST PROFITS, MSC SURVEY SHOWS

Those who feel that "baby chick bargains" pay off even though more of them die when young are probably very wrong. At least figures gained by Howard C. Zindel, Michigan State College poultry specialist, shows a definite relation between baby chick mortality and laying flock mortality.

Poultry flock owners that lost less than 10 per cent of their chicks up to 21 weeks of age had seven per cent of their hens die off after pullets were placed in the laying house. On the other hand, flock owners with 20 per cent or more mortality in baby chicks up to time hens were put into the laying house suffered a 28 per cent loss after hens started laying.

"There's a direct relation to the health of baby chicks and the health of the laying flock these same chicks make up. That's why it's so important to buy good healthy chicks and keep down the loss with good management," the poultry specialist emphasized.

He reminded, too, that early chicks mean early laying pullets and that eggs produced before November normally bring the highest prices.

Eggs are one of the good buys in protein foods and grade B eggs are one of the best buys. The grade B's are especially suited for scrambling and baking purposes, advises Jeanette Lee, Michigan State College home economist. When there is a wide difference in price between grade A and B, homemakers are wise to buy both and use them appropriately.

## FARM YOUTH SOUGHT FOR 4-H CLUBS IN STATEWIDE DRIVE

Oakland County rural young people who are eligible but not yet members of 4-H Clubs will get a special appeal from club members from March 5 to 13 to join the ranks.

Planned as National 4-H Club Week, it is the time that the program for rural young people is to be introduced to rural youth and parents. Mr. Fred Gettel, Assistant County Agricultural Agent, and Josephine Hoke, Home Demonstration Agent, ask that persons interested in the work and not contacted get in touch with their offices.

During the last year, there were 300 boys and girls in the 4-H clubs in the county, they said. To meet Michigan's goal of 57,000 members in 1949, the agents said this county should add more members. There are many boys and girls in the county eligible to participate in 4-H Club work but who do not belong. The goal is to have as many as possible enroll from this group. "Securing local leaders is one of our great organization problems," the extension agents said. "Although there are approximately 200 men and women in the county giving their time to help this youth program, there are several areas in the county not organized because of a shortage of leaders," the agents report.

A local volunteer leader and at least five or six boys or girls between 10 and 21 years of age are required to start a club. The offices of 4-H Clubs, Oakland County Cooperative Extension Service, located at 1 Lafayette Street, Pontiac, will be glad to offer information to any prospective leader or member.

## SPECIAL PIG CARE IS NECESSARY AT FARROWING TIME

Michigan farmers are expecting larger pig crops this spring. But if the percentage that live to reach marketing age is not higher than the past two years, the number for slaughter will be well below the ten year average.

W. N. McMillen, Michigan State College swine specialist, urges care at farrowing time to save a greater number of spring pigs. Experiments conducted at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station last winter showed that many little piglets die or are stunted during their first few hours of life. This is because they have no temperature control mechanism. Farrowed at a temperature of 100 degrees from their mothers, the piglets are sometimes born in near freezing temperatures. This chilling either kills them or stunts their growth.

Electric pig brooders are the best answer, McMillen believes. You can install a brooder in one corner of the pen and use a guard rail to keep the sow out. By using an ordinary electric lamp with a reflector hanging above this area it serves as a brooder to keep the little pigs warm. They can crawl beneath the rail to the main part of the pen to nurse, but will be away from the sow most of the time, reducing the possibility of their being stepped on or mashed. The lamp can be from 60 to 150 watts, depending upon the amount of heat needed. Brooders should be used for the first ten days to two weeks after pigs are born.

A bulletin, Extension 259, is available from county agricultural agents or from the Bulletin Office, Michigan State College, East Lansing.

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## Winter Feed Plentiful For Wildlife This Year

Sufficient corn has been available to pheasants, rabbits and squirrels this winter, a conservation department survey of food conditions shows.

Lack of heavy snow and severe weather also has helped these small game animals to find such necessary diet items as dandelion leaves and grass.

Weights of hens trapped in the Saginaw Bay state game area showed pheasants averaging 1.76 ounces less than in January. This loss is about normal. The birds still are heavier than they would be in a more usual winter with heavier snow.

## Hints Given To Avoid Muddy Spring Farmyards

Spring usually brings one of the most unpleasant situations a farmer deals with — muddy barn yards. Cattle that have to wallow knee deep in mud can't produce properly and they're hard to care for.

The remedy for the muddy barn yards is a hard surface. Michigan State College extension specialists have prepared a bulletin that gives the necessary information. Drawings and pictures show how the work is done.

"The extension bulletin, number 266, 'Paved Barn Yards', can be obtained from county agricultural agents or by writing to the Bulletin Office, Department of Public Relations, Michigan State College.

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## Farmers Cooperate On Wildlife Cover

Conservation department game men, who have been inspecting farms and making plans for wildlife food and cover programs, report 137 farmers in 25 southern Michigan counties ready to participate this spring.

Following the spring plantings, more farms will be given consideration in the long range plan to increase the number of places wildlife may find escape cover and food.

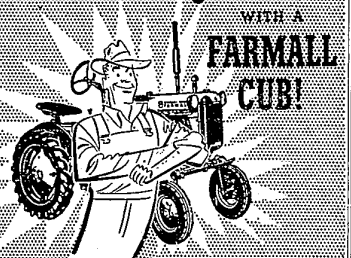
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When planting time comes there won't be much opportunity to repair machinery. Check it now, is the advice of Michigan State College agricultural specialists. Needed parts can be obtained and the machine repaired so it is ready for operation.

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## Even Working's Fun...



A warm spring day and you ride out to the field in your brand-new Farmall Cub tractor... flip a tiny lever with your finger... and down goes the plow! A big, shiny ribbon of soil rolls over... yes, even working's fun with a Farmall Cub!

A fellow east of town said to me, "My kids are always scrapping about who's going to drive the Farmall Cub. How I wish we'd had machines like that when I was a kid. My poor feet sure took a beating!"

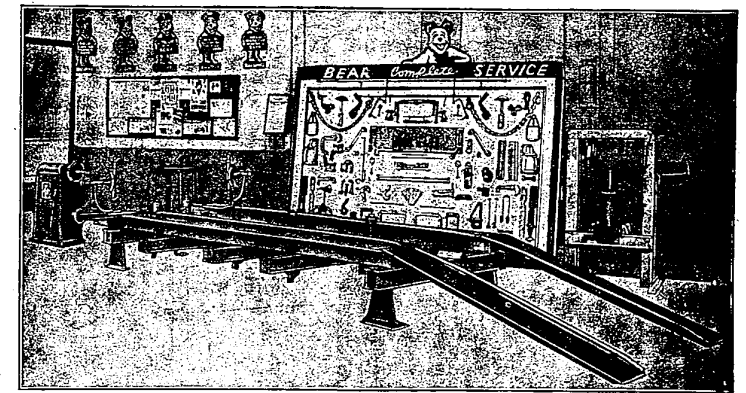
Yes, folks, that's what a lot of people are saying since they bought their Farmall Cub... and they know that any time parts or service are needed, I'm always here.

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