

# FARM FEATURES

**Birds That Are Gone**  
Some of the bird species exterminated from this continent are: great auk, Labrador duck, passenger pigeon, Eskimo curlew, Carolina parakeet, beach hen, ivory-billed woodpecker.

The conservation department reminds beaver and other trappers the season opened March 20 at 12 noon in the lower peninsula. The season ends March 31 at 12 noon.

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## CULL POTATOES FOR LIVESTOCK FEED CUTS GRAIN COSTS

Many farmers have the opportunity of securing cull potatoes at an economical price. Research at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station has shown that cull potatoes are a valuable feed for some kinds of livestock.

C. F. Huffman, research scientist at Michigan State College, advises that up to forty pounds of fresh chopped potatoes may be fed to dairy cows each day. The cows should be started on smaller amounts to accustom them to eating potatoes. Sunburned, decomposed, sprouted and frozen potatoes should not be fed since they may cause digestive disturbances.

Best results are obtained when the potatoes are fed with good alfalfa hay or other legume roughage. If a "potato flavor" is noted in the milk, it can usually be done away with by feeding following milking.

Cooked potatoes make good feed for swine, according to animal husbandry specialists. Cooking makes the potatoes more digestible and increases palatability. Potatoes should be fed in a well-balanced ration with ample protein supplement and minerals. The cooked potatoes should replace not more than one-half of the grain ordinarily fed in the ration. They may be fed at the rate of two to four pounds of potatoes per pound of grain.

For sheep, fresh potatoes may be used both for fattening lambs and for wintering ewes. For the lambs, one to two pounds may be fed with good quality legume hay and grain. Ewes may receive the same and following lambing be increased to four pounds a day. Only potatoes in good condition should be fed.

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## Dairy Farming Costs Cut By Good Planning

With farm income declining, farmers are looking for ways to make their farm business more efficient. This will help to cut costs of production and keep the enterprise profitable.

The Michigan State College farm management department has made a study of cost reduction in dairy farming that points to a number of ways to lower costs. C. R. Hoagland, farm management specialist at MSU, lists them as (1) improved forage production, (2) more efficient feeding, (3) better work methods, and (4) more economical housing.

## JUNIOR GARDENERS WILL COMPETE FOR \$6,000 IN AWARDS

A new production program for Michigan junior vegetable gardeners, with \$6,000 in awards, has been announced by Paul R. Tuttle, instructor in vocational agriculture, Vermilion, Ohio, central regional chairman of the National Junior Vegetable Growers Association.

In announcing the NJVGA's ninth annual production-marketing contest, Tuttle pointed out that all Michigan State boys and girls between ages of 14 and 21 are eligible to compete for \$6,000 in agricultural scholarships. He added that such a program should be of particular value and interest to youthful gardeners of Michigan where more than 175,000 farms in 1948 marketed crops valued at approximately \$255,000.

"The NJVGA regional chairman also pointed out that such activities among the young farmers of the state are becoming increasingly important in view of the ever-growing population resulting in demands for more and better food. He cited recent estimates indicating the nation has 145,000,000 people to feed now, as compared with 130,000,000 in 1940. He also pointed out that the average American is eating about 15 per cent more food than in pre-war years.

"In view of the above," Tuttle said, "it is more and more important that our young farmers learn as much as possible about improved production and more efficient marketing methods. The program of the National Junior Vegetable Growers Association provides them with that opportunity."

All youths can enroll through their local 4-H Club leaders or agents, their instructors in vocational agriculture, or by writing directly to Tuttle at Vermilion, Ohio.

Besides the production-marketing project, the 1949 NJVGA program again will include the annual national demonstration contest with trips and cash prizes offered by the W. Atlee Burpee Seed Company of Philadelphia. These awards include trips to the annual NJVGA convention for those who score highest in the state contests, plus cash prizes to top performers in the national finals.

Michigan winners in the 1948 NJVGA production-marketing contest were: Raymond E. Borton of Lansing; David E. Brown of Alpena; Arden Peterson of Ionia; Carol A. Schatz of Garden City; and Russell C. Still of South Haven.

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## LAMB PRODUCTION CONTEST ENTRIES SOUGHT BY STATE

Michigan sheep raisers who would like the chance to compare records with others in the state may do so by enrolling in the Wolverine Lamb Production Project, sponsored each year by the Michigan State College animal husbandry extension department.

Cooperating in the event are county agricultural agents in various parts of the state. Only a minimum of records are required. Weights of ewe fleeces, lambs born, and total weight of lambs when four and one-half months old, are among the points considered.

Results are computed by the extension staff and the high flocks are announced just previous to Farmers' Week. Owners of high flocks are invited to exhibit a pen of three lambs and a champion flock master is selected and awarded a special trophy.

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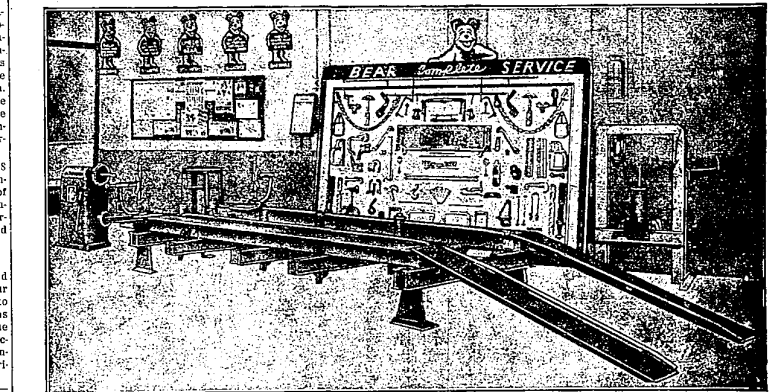


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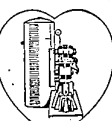
Jack Harvey is mighty proud of the electric water system on his farm. He declares that not only did the installation pay for itself in a surprisingly short time, but it has jumped milk production 10%. Just as enthusiastic is Mrs. Harvey, who says that because of the completeness of the system, her family is now enjoying a far happier, healthier and more comfortable life than before installation.

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