

Soil Testing Lab
Opens At Pontiac

The soil laboratory in the Extension Office at 1 Lafayette Street, (Old Masonic building) opened officially Wednesday, April 13.

Paul Rood and Dr. Kirk Lawton, Michigan State College Soils Department, were present to give a demonstration of soil testing, tissue testing, and explained the purpose of soil tests as done in the new laboratory.



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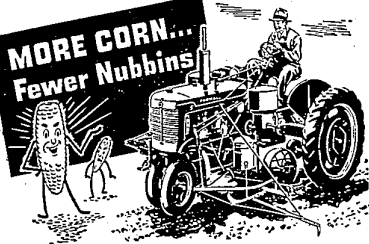
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"What's fertility-level check planting, and why will it give me more corn and fewer nubbins?" a fellow asked me one day.

"Well, you know, an ordinary planter checks either 2, 3, or 4 kernels per hill—7,840, 11,760, or 15,680 kernels per acre. But suppose your soil's fertility level requires a kernel population somewhere between those figures?"

"Right now, I'm just out of luck," he said.

"No, you're not. With the new, high-speed, clutchless McCormick 'population planter', you can plant somewhere between those 2, 3, or 4 kernels per hill—7,840, 11,760, or 15,680 kernels per acre. But suppose your soil's fertility level requires a kernel population somewhere between those figures?"

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FARM RECORDS
SHOW SQUEEZE
IS ON PROFITS

Any farmer who kept farm accounts in 1947 and 1948 will tell you that the profit squeeze is now on. According to John Doneth, Michigan State College farm management extension specialist, the squeeze comes when farming costs keep going up and farm income drops or remains steady.

That's why Doneth thinks profits are going to be harder to get in 1949 and that better management is going to spell the difference between profits and just wages for labor spent.

As a basis for this belief, Doneth points to a survey of more than 100 farms, averaging 200 acres in size, located in good farming areas in three southern Michigan counties.

On these farms, better crop yields produced about the same total income in 1948 as did lower crop yields in 1947. The price drops caused that. Dairy, beef and poultry operations paid slightly more income, but swine and sheep projects returned less gross profit.

The average income in 1948 on these farms was only \$165 higher than in 1947. But farm expenses averaged \$307 higher in 1948 than the year before. Feed purchased, machinery costs and crop raising expenses were up considerably. So was the cost of hired labor.

Earnings declined 14 per cent or \$612 on these better-than-average farms. This is the first time since 1943 that records on farming in this area showed a drop in earnings.

Doneth believes those figures should be a warning to all Michigan farmers to watch expenses and keep them at a minimum by efficient use of capital and labor.

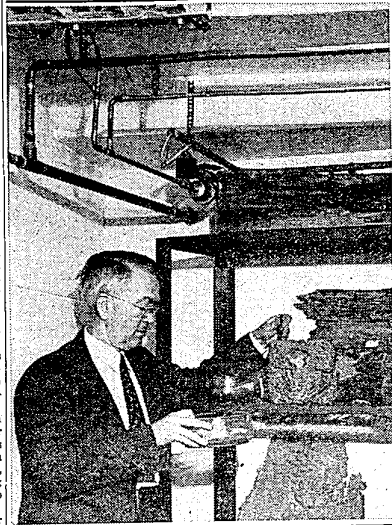
The American vacationer averages 12 and a half days actual travel time per vacation.

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NEW MSC LABS AID INSECT STUDIES



Insects that find themselves in the Michigan State College's new entomology laboratories will be able to hide few facts about their life cycles and appetites.

The labs are housed in the new natural science building constructed at MSC. Rooms that create artificial weather conditions will permit the scientists at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station to learn about insect growth. This will make possible prediction of insect invasions, numbers and also help in devising control methods.

The facts which will be uncovered will aid the state's farmers to raise crops and livestock with less danger from insect pests. Consumers, too, will benefit since insect damage each year cuts crop yields and brings higher food prices.

Ray Hutton, head of the MSC entomology department, is shown here as he collects samples of insects. The thimbers shown on the right have been attacked by carpenter beetles and termites.

BRUCELOSIS VACCINE TESTS SHOW RESULTS

More than 50,000 dairy animals in Michigan have been vaccinated with Dr. L. Forest Huddleson's new "Brucella M" vaccine for control of Bang's disease.

The new vaccine has been available for nearly 18 months through 212 veterinarians in Michigan who have been licensed by Dr. C. F. Clark, state veterinarian, to use the product. Vaccine is produced in the Brucella Laboratory at Michigan State College which has facilities for making 1,000 doses each day.

Since 1943 trials have been made to test the effectiveness of the vaccine developed by Dr. Huddleson during his life-long research. Brucellosis is the most costly of all animal diseases and in man it is known as undulant fever.

Dr. Huddleson reports that he is quite satisfied with the results of trials he made on 2,000 adult female cattle and 216 calves in 25 herds prior to the time it was approved for use in Michigan. He is seeking further results in these herds as well as the many herds in Michigan now using the vaccine.

Veterinarians in Michigan report that more cattle—both dairy and beef animals—are now being inoculated with "Brucella M" than any other vaccine.

Shipments of the vaccine out-

Farmington Guernsey
Sets State Milk Record

Charles E. Sorensen, Farmington, has made a state champion record with his registered Guernsey cow, Cesar's Fancy's Maxine, her production of 10,650 pounds of milk and 329 pounds of butterfat in the highest record in the state made by a junior 2-year-old heifer three times daily for a ten-month period.

The sire of this cow, Cesar's Fancy's Maxine, owned also by Charles E. Sorensen, has two daughters in the Performance Register on The American Guernsey Cattle Club.

side Michigan, except by special permit, has not been allowed. Until approved by the Bureau of Animal Husbandry of the U. S. D. A., this will not be possible. Several states, however, have set up trials and obtained special permission to use the vaccine in herds which are treated with "Brucella M" and other vaccines and exposed to the disease. It will take several years before results of such tests can be obtained.

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Extension Leaders Get
Frozen Food Lessons

The latest methods of preparing fruits and vegetables for frozen storage will be demonstrated to Oakland County Home Extension Leaders during the month of April. Two extension leaders from each Home Extension club will attend these lessons:

April 20, Pontiac District at the Central Methodist Church, Pontiac.
April 21, Milford District at the Clyde Hall, Clyde.
April 22, Royal Oak District at the Parker School, 2 blocks west of Woodward on 13 Mile Road.

April 27, Holly District at the Davisburg Methodist Church, Davisburg.
April *28, Rochester District at the home of Mrs. W. E. Schumaker, 201 Pine Street, Rochester.

April 29, Oxford District at the Oxford High School Homecoming Department.

The leaders will return and present the lesson to their local clubs. An open discussion on budgeting space in the commercial locker or frozen food unit will be a feature of the lesson.

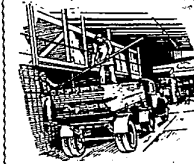
Today, one half of the farm families in America have frozen food units in their homes and many families use commercial lockers.



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