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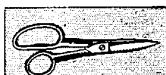
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4-H GIRLS MAKE 20 MILLION MEALS IN FOOD PROGRAM

With 20 million meals placed end to end reach around the world? Nobody seems to know. But it is a fact that some 400,000 4-H Club girls last year planned, prepared and served 20 million meals as part of their training in the National 4-H Food Preparation Program. In Michigan, 6,759 were enrolled in the project, according to A. G. Kettunen, State Club leader, and the 1949 program is off to a good start.

Designed to help 4-H's understand food values from both health and economy standpoints, the program also develops desirable personal food habits. The youthful cooks range in age from 10 to 21 years, and as in all 4-H activities "learn by doing". Use of home-produced food is stressed.

Merit awards will again be provided by Several Home Economics departments. They are educational trips to the National 4-H Club Congress for state winners; gold-filled medals for county winners; and six \$300 scholarships for members of a special blue award group. The Cooperative Extension Service directs the program.

Marian Gasser of Bellevue won both the 1948 state and Eaton county awards. There were 61 other county medal winners named in Michigan.

Fruit Inspections Break All Records

In the past month the Federal State Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Service of the Michigan Department of Agriculture broke all previous records for the amount of inspection fees earned for shipping-point inspections of Michigan grown fruits and vegetables, reports Miles A. Nelson, Chief of the Bureau of Marketing and Enforcement. The inspection and certification of the quality, grade, and condition of Michigan fruits and vegetables at the shipping point was established by the Michigan Department of Agriculture 12 years ago.

In the past month the equivalent of 230 carloads of onions and 1597 carloads of potatoes, a total of 1837 carloads, were inspected and certified as to grade.

George Lockhart

Fellow American Society of Piano Technicians

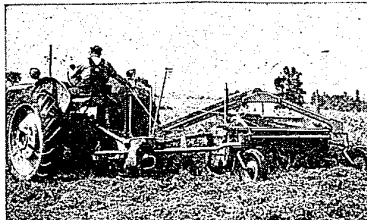
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LANSING, MICHIGAN—An ingenious new Haymaker developed by John Bean permits hay cut before being baled before even in good haying weather. Hay is passed through steel rollers that crack the heavy stems without crushing the leaves. Moisture then evaporates more quickly through the stem. Haymaker hay stays green and fragrant, has greater vitamin and food value and a larger crop is harvested because the green leaves cling to the stalk.

Feedings Costs Cut By Pasture

Successful livestock producers plan to make maximum use of good pasture and roughage because of the big savings possible in feeding costs, says Graydon Blank, Extension specialist in animal husbandry at Michigan State College.

Good pasture will save 15 per cent of the grain and 50 per cent of the protein in the swine ration, Blank states. When 20 hogs are pastured per acre this can amount to a saving of \$40 or more in feed costs.

Since 90 per cent of the feed consumed by sheep is roughage and pasture, the savings from good feed of this type is even more pronounced, the specialist believes. Last year Hill Brothers of Vermontville, Michigan's 1948 Champion Flockmasters, sent 123 lambs to market from 88 ewes. These lambs averaged over 50 pounds and were marketed directly from pasture without receiving grain.

The cheapest possible gain with beef cattle is that made on good pasture and roughage, Blank points out. Michigan State College experiments have shown that yearling steers on mixed lucerne and grass pasture gained from one to two pounds per day during the grazing season. Costs varied from three to seven cents a pound on pasture, while cost of gain on similar steered grain in the dry lot ranged from 12 to 15 cents a pound.

Many practices for establishing and maintaining improved pasture on Michigan farms will be demonstrated at a series of Grass Days to be held throughout the state in June.

Ventilate Hotcaps On Early Plants

Tomato plants may be set out two weeks earlier and vine crops can be seeded three or four weeks earlier than normal through the use of waxed paper covers, says Jack Rose, of the Michigan State College department of horticulture. Melons, cucumbers and squash can be seeded earlier if the hills are protected with covers commonly known as hotcaps. Tomato plants may be set out at the same time if protection is provided. Several precautions are necessary in using the caps, Rose says. Caps should be set firmly and edges well covered with soil to hold them in place.

Plants growing under caps must have ventilation. When set over transplants or as soon as seed has come up under the caps, a two-inch slit should be cut in the side away from the prevailing wind.

FARM LAND PRICES DECLINE FIRST TIME IN DECADE

After 10 years of almost steady climbing, farm land prices in the country as a whole appear to have reached the postwar peak, says Dr. Karl T. Wright, Michigan State College agricultural economist.

Land prices in Michigan are down two per cent from November. Values in this state still are 129 per cent above the prewar average of 1935-39.

Referring to recently released government reports, Dr. Wright points out that United States land prices turned downward one per cent during the last four months ending March 1. This, he said, is the first decline in these prices since the late thirties, though, for the country as a whole, they are still more than double the average in 1935-39.

During the past 12 months, the prices of land purchased in Michigan have continued to rise a little. However, the two-per cent rise in each of the past two years is a slowing down from the 17-per cent rise for the previous 12-month period and the average of about 12 per cent a year in the war years.

Wright explains that it generally takes most farmers 10 to 20 years, on the average, to pay for a farm. It is a long-time proposition and unless the farmer has considerable cash, he must evaluate what is ahead in farm earnings in order to calculate whether or not he can pay for a farm.

Hunters To Be Quizzed In Wayne and Oakland

Working with hunting license lists, wildlife management students of the University of Michigan have finished first round quizzes of selected hunters, covering Wayne and Oakland counties, Flint, Port Huron, Grand Rapids and Lansing. Conservation department game men have started interviewing selected hunters in rural areas and in certain blocks of small towns.

Attempting to get a better picture of the economic value of the hunting sport in the state, as well as correlating information received with that culled from hunters' report cards, wildlife management students will continue with the interviews in the Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor area.

Wildlife students started first round interviewing of every 76th licensed hunter in Wayne and Oakland county areas, Grand Rapids and Flint; of every 625th in Lansing and 163rd in Port Huron.

SO MANY PEOPLE USE THEM! CLASSIFIEDS MUST BE GOOD—

Cite Increase In Hog Cholera

An increase in hog cholera last year calls for added precautions now, says Dr. B. J. Killham, extension veterinarian at Michigan State College.

Reversing the downward trend of the two previous years, a 17 per cent increase in the number of reported outbreaks of hog cholera occurred last season.

This upswing in the cholera cycle would not have taken place if all hogs had been immunized, Dr. Killham advises.

He points out that there is still no cure for hog cholera. The only protection lies in proper vaccination before an outbreak strikes. Around weaning time is the best time for vaccination, but pigs should be checked first to be sure they are in condition to be vaccinated without ill effects.

As a further precaution, farmers are urged not to visit the barns or hog lots of any neighbor who has known or suspected cholera in his herd. Hog cholera virus can be spread on the feet and clothing, and on truck and wagon wheels.

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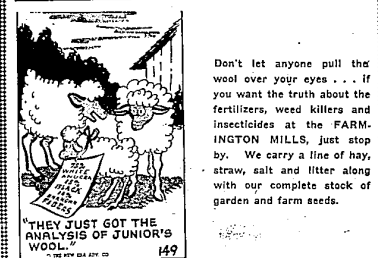
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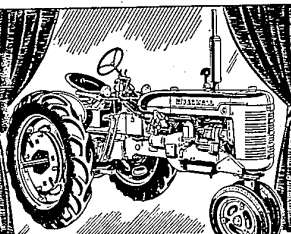
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