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4-H Meat Program Well Under Way

Today meat provides one-third of the food energy in the American diet, and latest U. S. Department of Agriculture figures show that almost one-third of the farmer's total cash income in 1948 came from the sale of meat animals. Aware of the vital contribution livestock makes to the nation's health and economy, Michigan boys and girls enrolled in the 1949 National 4-H Meat Animal program learn to select, feed and show beef cattle, sheep or pigs. More than 300,000 4-H Club members throughout the country are taking part in the project, according to the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work.

Some of the highlights of the program are keeping records of feeding and weight gains and learning the value of balanced rations. Many of the young stockmen grow their own feed. Members practice livestock judging at club meetings, and then try out for county and state judging teams. They take a great pride, too, in showing their animals. The Co-operative Extension Service directs the activity.

In addition to being educational and profitable, the program offers awards for outstanding accomplishments. Mr. Thomas E. Wilson, chairman of the National Committee, and a veteran Chicago meat packer, has provided awards for the last 29 years. There are medals for county winners; a 17-jewel gold watch for the state champion; trips to the National 4-H Club Congress for eight sectional winners, and four \$300 national scholarships.

Quack Grass Control Done With Chemical

Quack grass can be killed with a water soluble chemical, reports R. G. Carlson, Michigan State College horticulturist.

Tests at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station have proved that quack grass can be controlled through the use of a chemical commonly known as TCA. Quack grass is one of the greatest nuisances on the farm and in the garden. During early June when the grass begins to head out is an excellent time to apply control measures.

TCA should not be used where any vegetable or other crop is growing. It can be used in vacant lots and along fences where the grass is crowding in on the garden.



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FARM FEATURES

Plan for 4-H Trip to Washington



The broad smiles on the faces of these four Michigan 4-H Club youths come from the thoughts of their trip to National 4-H Camp to be held in Washington, D. C. June 15-22, 1949.

The trips were awarded for outstanding project work during their 4-H careers. The delegates are: (left to right) Howard Kling, 21, Tekonsha; Wilma Coleman, 18, East Lansing; Donna Bailey, 18, Ithaca; and Norwin Lesser, 21, Dexter.

The young people will join representatives from almost every state at the Washington encampment. Theme of this year's camp will be "Know Your Government." Special tours and programs will be sponsored by various departments of the government.

MEAT CARE IS STRESSED BY FOOD AUTHORITY

Since meat is a major item in food buying, the importance of its proper care in the kitchen is emphasized by Beba Stagg, well known home economist. She especially calls attention to homemakers who habitually slip their meat packages in the refrigerator straight from their shopping bag.

Paper wrappings from around fresh meat should be removed first, points out Miss Stagg. The meat should then be placed on a plate or in a shallow pan or covered lightly with wax paper to allow for a little drying which is desirable in keeping fresh meat. It then needs to be placed immediately in the meat compartment or in the coldest part of the refrigerator.

A cold, dry location, but not necessarily the coldest part of the refrigerator, is best for smoked meats such as ham or bacon, says this home economist. And when cooking bacon, homemakers should take out of the refrigerator only the amount they'll be using, since room temperatures do not keep bacon at its best.

8,000 Skunks Lose Skins To Hunters In 1948-49

Those little stinkers — that often offend the nose but make warm fur coats — were taken in greater numbers in the 1948-49 season.

According to computations by the conservation department's game division, hunters bagged 7,976 skunks as compared to 6,567 in 1947-48. The number of animals taken by trappers is being tabulated and will be released later.

Spray Produces Early Tomatoes

Tomatoes will not set fruit as long as night temperatures remain below 50 degrees Fahrenheit, Michigan State College horticulturist. Last year, however, some growers were able to produce ripe fruit two to three weeks earlier through the use of a hormone spray.

Dr. Wittwer, who has done much work with plant growth regulators, relates that fruit set depends on the presence of a hormone or growth controlling chemical. The chemical is not present in the flower in sufficient amount at temperatures below 59 degrees Fahrenheit.

Manufacturers have given the hormone, artificially produced, such trade names as Sure-Set, Tomato-Tone, and other names. When it is applied, fruit setting results even though night temperatures are below 59 degrees Fahrenheit.

The hormone spray should be applied to the flowers while they are open. On commercial plantings, special two-quart pressure sprayers are used in applying the hormone. Ordinary household sprayers can be used on smaller plantings. The practice is to go through the field once every five days and spray all blossoms showing color. Care should be used to spray as little as possible on the foliage.

Fruit set will be increased only as long as night temperatures remain below 59 degrees Fahrenheit. Fruit size will be increased somewhat any time during the season. Size increases of as much as 30 per cent have been measured.

Wild Onions Make Off-Flavor Milk

This is the season of the year when the dairyman who milks whole milk may sometimes have his milk rejected because of off-flavors.

Ed Alchin, county agricultural agent, says one of the common causes of rejection slips is an off-flavor caused by the cows eating wild onions or garlic.

There's good reason, too, for rejecting milk with this kind of off-flavor. Once the onion or garlic flavor gets into the milk, not much can be done about it. So the control lies in prevention rather than cure.

For this reason, agent Alchin says that the place to stop the flavor is on your farm.

The first preventative measure is to wait until the onions have stopped growing. Then cut the tops and let them wilt before turning the cows onto the pasture. The second plan is to let the dry cows, heifers or young stock graze down the onion in the spring pasture. Do all you can to keep the wild onion or garlic flavor out of the milk that you want to produce for market. If your product has quality, it will be accepted and will bring you top prices.

Ideas go booming through the world louder than cannon. Thoughts are mightier than armies. Principles have achieved more victories than horsemen or chariots.

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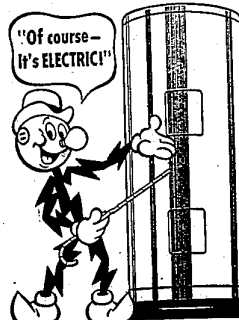
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