

Parasites cut livestock profits by millions of dollars, causing loss of weight, anemia, and unthriftiness. Control of these pests will mean more money for livestock producers.

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Apple Bruises Cut By Harvest Care

Apple bruising can be reduced in every step of the harvesting and packing process, scientists say, but the greatest opportunity for bruise reduction is in the apple packing house.

Roy E. Marshall, Michigan State College horticulturist, cites a recent U. S. Department of Agriculture study to find ways to cut bruise loss.

Close supervision of picking operations is listed as a necessary beginning. Another important point is the handling of apple boxes on pallets. Wooden pallets in which 24 or 30 boxes of apples are placed for mechanized handling. Only one-fifth as much bruising was found when apples were handled on pallets as when the boxes were handled separately. Bruises incurred during storage of loose fruit were also found to be less with apples handled on pallets.

Researchers found bruising damage greater after apples were taken to the packing line than in the combined operations of picking, hauling, and handling. Dumping, slipping from one level to another on conveyor belts, and hitting various parts of moving equipment accounted for the greatest number of bruises.

Apples dumped into a water bath showed fewer bruises than those carefully dumped on a canvas belt as it passed over a solid surface.

Studies now under way in Michigan, by H. P. Gaston, MSU horticulturist, are showing similar results.

The apple authorities also emphasize the importance of having the various parts of moving equipment accurately timed.

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Egg Quality Falls Rapidly, Large Scale Field Study Shows

An average of two-thirds of the eggs are "A" quality grades A or AA) when received direct from producers at country buying stations or by truckers, but only about 58 per cent are A quality by the time they reach central plants for shipment to markets. These facts were indicated by findings of a recently completed regional study of egg quality in 13 major egg producing states.

The study was the first large scale field survey of changes in egg quality during marketing ever attempted. It was carried on by agricultural economists and poultry marketing research people of Michigan State College, 12 other state agricultural experimental stations, and the United States department of agriculture. In all, about 727,000 eggs were graded at more than 1,000 buying and assembling plants.

"Egg producers have long been disturbed at the price spread between producers and consumers," the researchers said, "and the egg trade has been concerned with the uncertainty as to the quality of eggs bought. The decline in quality which occurs as the eggs move through market channels is an important explanation of the reasons for these problems."

Advocates Early Fertilizer Orders

Thinking ahead is one of the big jobs of farming and anticipating fertilizer needs is one of the most important.

Michigan State College soils specialists say that planning your order and taking delivery as soon as possible saves time and trouble. If you truck fertilizer to your own farm, you'll avoid long line-ups that sometimes occur in peak seasons.

Grapefruit are so-called because they sometimes grow in clusters.

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Set Custom Rates For Corn Harvest

With corn harvest time rapidly approaching, Byron Bookout and R. W. Christian, Michigan State College agricultural economists, have released results of a recent survey of custom charges for this work.

The survey covers many custom operators in Michigan and presents the most common rates charged. Custom rates for picking corn were reported for both one and two row pickers. The two row pickers were used chiefly in the southern part of the state.

The most common rates for picking corn with a one row picker were \$5.00 per acre or \$5.00 per hour.

Farmers reporting custom work with two row pickers gave rates only on an acre basis. The rates were lower with two row pickers than for one row pickers. The most common rate was \$4.00 per acre.

Some farmers reported that they furnished one or two wagons with the corn picker. The custom rates were about the same with or without wagons. The custom workers who furnished wagons apparently felt they could do more work in a day and thus increase their income.

Check For Good Herd Additions

Farmers who are buying heifers for dairy herd replacements this fall should have a eye out for big growthy, roomy animals that have the ability to produce well.

County agricultural agents and DHIA testers often know where good heifers may be offered for sale.

Shrubby plantings help keep troublesome snow from drifting off open fields onto the road when winter winds blow.

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