

FARM FEATURES

Highest Fire Danger On Farms

A call to all farmers for extra efforts in fire prevention was made this week by agricultural extension specialists of Michigan State College in preparation for Fire Prevention Week, October 9 - 15.

Citing that danger of loss of life by fire is greater in a farmhouse than in a city home, the specialists urged farmers to make sure that their farms will not become another figure on the annual toll.

Fire losses in Michigan last year included 164 lives and almost 30 million dollars worth of property. A substantial portion of these losses were on farms. The national toll of fire deaths was 11,000 lives.

Eight common fire hazards cause most farm fires, the specialists say. Removing all of the hazards could eliminate 90 per cent of the farm fires. Most common are:

1. Careless smoking habits. Make sure cigarettes are out before discarding.
2. Accumulations of trash. Clean up all rubbish that will burn.
3. Careless handling of matches. Keep them away from children.
4. Flammable shingle roofs. Use fire-resistant roofing.
5. Improper storage of gasoline and kerosene. Store away from main buildings in accordance with regulations.
6. Improperly cured hay in barns. Cure thoroughly — keep it dry.
7. Dirty or defective heating plants, chimneys, lamps, lanterns, motors and machinery. Keep equipment clean and make repairs promptly.
8. Lightning. Use lightning rods on all main buildings.

4-H Club News

JOHN TROCKE, 4-H Club Agent

The leaders of Oakland County 4-H Clubs met on Tuesday, October 11 at the 4-H Fair Grounds on Perry Street in Pontiac. This meeting was for the purpose of electing new members to the 4-H Fair Council and for leader training in the college staff members.

This is the time of year when nominations are made for the county and state awards. These awards are given to boys and girls who have done an outstanding job of 4-H Club work during the year. In general, the youngster is rewarded on a county level by receiving a gold or silver medal. If they win the state championship, in general, they receive awards of scholarships or cash or trips to the National Club Congress in Chicago.

Those winning the county awards this year were as follows: National Garden winners for excellent work in gardening projects were Gene Burkhardt of White Lake, Allen Armstrong of Rochester, Pat Carson and Margaret Warner of White Lake. The winner of the county Field Crops award is Dean Younger of Oxford. The Home Ground Beautification County award winner is Peter Schaldenbrand of Farmington. The two girls winning the county awards in the Dress Revue are Ruth Rahine of Birmingham and Jan Jacobson of Rochester. Nancy Hilton of Pontiac wins the county award in Food Preparation. The two girls winning the award for the Food Preparation Demonstration were Martha Cook and Janet Miller of Orionville.

Potatoes are full of vitamin C and are the most inexpensive year-around source of the vitamin in Michigan. They also contain certain B vitamins and some iron according to home economists at Michigan State College.

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LOOK OUT, FERDINAND—Although soccer has replaced the traditional bull-fight as Spain's national sport, crowds still flock to cheer and see the fighters at Madrid's arena. This placid, his feet and calves well protected by steel and leather, inflicts painful wounds on the bull to weaken and madden him. Then the matador takes over.

RATE CONCRETE FLOORS HIGH FOR FARM USE

Durability and safety are two of the advantages of concrete sub-floors listed by James S. Boyd, agricultural engineer at Michigan State College. They lend themselves to either frame or masonry home construction.

Half of all home fires start in the basement and concrete sub-floors retard the upward spread of flames, Boyd points out. The floors make a good base for any type of floor covering, such as hardwood, linoleum, carpeting or tile.

Farmhouses are being built in Michigan with all the floors of concrete. Many types are available.

Publish Methods Of Farm Transfer

To present information on the best ways for parents to provide for their future security and also treat heirs fairly, the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station has issued special bulletin 357, "How to Keep Your Farm in the Family." It is now available at county agricultural agents' offices.

The bulletin compares various transfer arrangements such as sales agreements and contracts, wills, inheritance, and gifts. The bulletin presents methods of attaining the goals of security for the parents; security for the farm-operating son; equitable treatment for other heirs; and keeping the farm a going concern.

GOOD CARE MEANS LONG LIFE FOR METAL ROOFING

Metal roofs are noted for durability. Michigan State College agricultural engineer, George Amundson, But he advises careful attention to application and preservation of these roofs for longest life. Screw-type nails have proved preferable to smooth-shank nails for fastening metal sheets securely to roof sheathing. Sheet metal screws have been used satisfactorily to fasten sheets together where the wood structure did not hold nails. A no. 12 half-inch galvanized screw-nail was also satisfactory as it fills old nail holes.

Asbestos wicking has been found to be a good material for gaskets in the sheet laps, but not more than two strands should be used or the sheets may be spread too far apart. Galvanized roofing should be painted as soon as the galvanizing or zinc coating begins to break down. Painting at this stage takes less labor and much less paint than when the roof has begun to show a number of rust spots.

Warm weather is necessary for the paint to stick in well and get maximum coverage, the engineer states. Sheets must be dry and free from dust and dirt. If rusted, the sheets can be cleaned with a wire brush to remove loose particles and scale. First, paint all rusted spots and allow to dry before applying a coat over the entire roof.

Wire brushing is not necessary if the paint is applied with a spray gun, but the roof should be swept with a broom just before painting. Metallic zinc paint has given excellent service in many tests.

A cord of seasoned wood will give as much heat as a ton of coal, and leave about one-quarter the amount of ashes.

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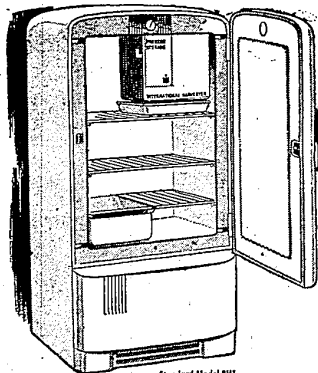
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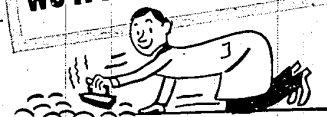
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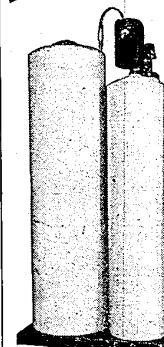
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