

# FARM FEATURES

## Low Cost Orchard Heaters Perfected

Protection of orchards against frost may be achieved economically by a new device being tested by scientists at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station.

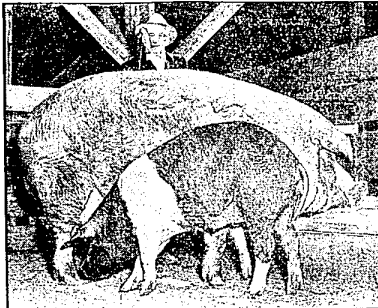
Clarence Hansen, Michigan State College agricultural engineer, has conducted tests of the low-cost heater and reports that findings are encouraging. The heaters were used late this fall in the Benton Harbor cherry growing area and arrangements are being made for experimental work in the Florida citrus regions this winter.

The new device consists of a number of small units which are placed through the orchard. Each device resembles a small pall with a fine on top. Low grade oil is burned at the rate of about one half gallon per hour. This fuel consumption is considerably lower than that of other orchard heaters now in use.

Thermometers placed through the test orchards have shown that the heaters, when burned in sufficient number, can keep the temperature of the atmosphere as much as six degrees higher than in unprotected areas.

Low initial cost is one of the most important points about the device. By having a number of them, protection can be provided in the orchard on chilly nights or in low areas where frost is likely. A man goes through the orchard lighting the burners when extra warmth is needed.

A commercial concern is negotiating for production of the burners and hopes to have them on the market to provide orchardists with low cost protection for their trees next spring.



**PORK CHOPS UNLIMITED**—Chicago, "hog butcher of the world," was host to one of the heaviest hogs ever to enter the stockyards. Norman Barnes of the Drovers Commission stands behind the 1000-pound animal which is four feet high and six feet long. An ordinary-sized Hampshire is compared to the big fellow.

## Old Bull Proven Valuable To ABA

Fathering 3,092 calves is quite a feat for any bull, but accomplishing this in the "twilight of life" makes Piebe all the greater. Lakeland Farms Piebe was one of the famous Holstein sires used at the Michigan Artificial Breeders Cooperative Laboratory on the Michigan State College farm.

We say "was" because he went the way of many good old bulls — to the butcher. At 16 years of age, he became weak in his hind legs and had trouble getting around. But he was still being used to father calves throughout the entire state of Michigan by the "mail-order service" to his very last week of existence.

A. C. Baltzer, MSC extension dairyman and secretary-manager of the farmer-owned cooperative, reports that Piebe came to the ABA service at the age of 13 years. Animal authorities say that is equivalent to about 75 years of age for man. In 45 months he sired nearly 4,000 calves, although he was down to a single tooth which made a special diet necessary because he couldn't chew hay.

But at the age of 16 — equivalent to 100 years in human beings — the old bull was retired.

He was a proved sire. Records on 24 of his daughters showed an average production of 66 pounds of butterfat a year, which was 82 pounds more butterfat than their mothers averaged.

Piebe came to the laboratory from the Carol J. Hart farm at Clayton. He was originally bred by Lakeland Farms, Clarkson, and was used in several good Michigan Holstein herds.

Here's one way the sheep breeder can take out some insurance on the lamb crop — use a check ram just in case your number one ram should turn out to be a non-breeder. Michigan State College animal husbandry specialists recommend putting in the check ram after the main ram has been with the flock for five or six weeks.

SAVE TIME AND MONEY BY SUBSCRIBING TO THE ENTERPRISE

## Adapted Alfalfa Seed Called Best

New alfalfa varieties are continually being brought out by plant breeders in various parts of the country. When time comes for buying next year's supply of seed, confusion sometimes arises about the best kind for Michigan growing conditions.

S. T. Dexter, Michigan State College farm crops specialist, recently conducted field tests on alfalfa varieties to find which one yielded well. As a general rule, varieties developed in a warmer climate may not produce satisfactory yields over a period of time, he points out.

Michigan-grown Grimm and Haddam seed is fully equal to any seed tested for most purposes in Michigan. It has one cutting is taken, Lakad may be superior in hay production, particularly in the north. Ranger can be expected to last longer in soil badly infested with bacteria will, particularly if the alfalfa is treated with caution to avoid winter injury.

In areas where winter injury is not a factor, the only reason for considering Buffalo rather than Ranger is that the seed of Buffalo is more readily obtained.

## Big Drug Doses May Be Bad For Cattle

Giving excessive dosages of drugs and concoctions to dairy cattle sometimes causes more trouble than benefit, cautions Dr. B. J. Killham, extension veterinarian at Michigan State College.

A little medicine or a few minerals may assist the natural powers of dairy cows in getting them back to health, but it does not follow that more will prove even better. Instances in which misguided use of drugs has caused trouble are far too numerous, continues Killham. Owners of good herds follow the rule of not administering drugs, special minerals, or so-called conditioners unless their contents and effects are adequately known and specifically indicated.

Bolivia and Paraguay are the only South American countries having no season.

## PLAN TOURS TO PRESENT DAIRY HINTS

Dairy problems will be answered for Michigan farmers in the northern and southwest section of the state during the winter months when a series of dairy meetings will be held in more than 50 counties.

James G. Hays, dairy extension project leader at Michigan State College, says the series will include two one-day dairy meetings for each county.

Two of these four subjects will be covered in each county: Feeding by J. G. Hays.

Sires, Inheritance and Breeding Troubles by George Parsons.

Marketing Quality Dairy Products by D. L. Murray.

Calf Raising and Management by L. A. Johnson.

All dairymen are invited to attend the meetings. County extension offices are making local arrangements and will announce dates and places. Dairy men a question period was being arranged at the end of each session so those attending could get their problems solved.

## Deep Litter Good In Poultry House

A litter at least six inches deep on the floor of the laying house will help keep the house dry during damp winter months, say Michigan State College poultrymen.

The litter should be stirred frequently to keep it open so air can get into it. Build up the litter with a layer of fresh material from the time. When part of the litter sets wet, remove it and add new material.

An airplane propeller manufacturer in Ohio operates a 10,000-watt broadcasting station which cannot be heard; it produces vibrations to test propellers.

Farm records are management tools and can do as much or more to make the farm profitable as any machine or tool you possess, say Michigan State College agricultural economists.

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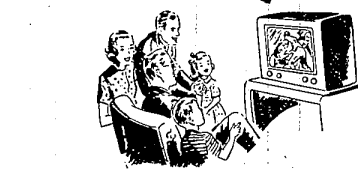
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