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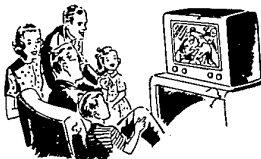
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FARM FEATURES

**Move To Cut Loss
In Stored Wheat**

Farmers and elevator operators in Michigan are losing considerable money because of deteriorated wheat, reports Clarence Prentice, marketing specialist in agricultural economics at Michigan State College.

Prentice says much of the wheat was farm stored at a high moisture content. Temperatures and humidity were unusually high this fall, and the wheat did not dry out after storing. Instead, it started to sprout, and in many cases the germ died causing what is known as "sick" wheat. Such wheat is very low in milling quality. Much of it would not grow if planted.

In an attempt to learn more about this wheat damage, a total of 450 elevator managers gathered at 15 meeting places in lower Michigan recently. Prentice arranged for six federal grain inspectors from Toledo, Detroit and Saginaw to assist in the demonstration meetings.

H. F. Prue, officer in charge of the Toledo Grain Branch of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, told elevator men that much of the trouble could have been prevented. Many farmers were not careful about storing only wheat of low moisture content and then watching it closely, he said. With careful attention, prevention measures could have been taken at the first sign of trouble. Turning, drying and fumigation for weevils as soon as the trouble was noticed would have saved the wheat, Prue said.

Because of the meetings, elevator operators and other grain buyers will now be better able to determine sick wheat, according to Prentice, and keep closer tabs on the grade of wheat they buy. Thus, farmers can expect to get more uniform grades on their wheat regardless of where it is sold.

**Know Animal Habits
Is Advice To Trapper**

With the muskrat season now in full swing, many farmer-trappers and A-H Club members are harvesting Michigan's million-dollar muskrat crop. In the southern part of the lower peninsula the season opened at noon on December 1.

Charles Schick, extension game specialist at Michigan State College, advises the amateur trapper to learn the habits of muskrats and acquaint himself with the marsh or stream area where he plans to trap. Such information provides a basis for successful trapping. He also advises a careful check of trapping regulations.

Last year trappers harvested an estimated 367,000 muskrats in the entire state. Of this figure, 249,000 were trapped from farm areas located south of a line running from Muskegon through Clare to Bay City.

**GRAND CHAMPION STEER**—Bonnie Lu Logan, 15, of Van Wert, O., hugs her black Aberdeen Angus steer, Lin-Lu, for winning the junior grand championship ribbon at the International Livestock Show in Chicago. A 4-H Club member, Bonnie Lu has raised cattle for the past six years, netting \$6000 in sales during that time.**Ground Water In State
Reaches New Low Level**

Ground water in the state is at the lowest level on record, according to October measurements taken from 44 test wells, the conservation department's geological survey division reports. This month's stage of 1.95 feet is 1.4 foot lower than the all-time recorded low of September, 1949, 1.67 feet lower than the record October high set in 1943, and 59 foot lower than the October average for the ten-year period ending in 1948.

Cause of the low level, conservation department hydrologists state, is the small amount of snow and rain during the last year, at a time when it would replenish the ground water supply instead of being used up by the vegetation during the growing season.

With ordinary weather conditions this spring, the ground water should rise to a normal level in the spring, geologists predict.

Test wells are located in the north central part of the southern peninsula.

**Clipping Advised
For Dairy Herd**

Clipping dairy cows now that they are spending more time in the barn is a good management practice, say Michigan State College dairymen.

Thanks, under belly, and tail are often sources of bacteria that get into the milk supply and lower quality. Clipping aids in keeping the herd clean and free from dirt, chaff, and foreign matter. Sharp blades with the proper tension are needed for the job, the dairymen say. Careful strokes will result in a clean job that will be a big improvement to the herd and the quality of milk produced.

Have drinking bowls or other water supply always available to the dairy herd, say Michigan State College dairymen.

Work methods on farms can often be improved. Studies at Michigan State College have shown that chore time can be cut as much as one-fourth by improving work methods with only small changes in buildings and equipment. Waste motions caused by back tracking and walking empty handed don't accomplish much in getting chore work done.

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**Carelessness Cause Of
Most Hunting Accidents**

With the major portion of the small game shooting season passed, the conservation department discloses that preliminary investigations again shows most hunting accidents occur when hunters shoot with humans in line of fire.

Last year this type of accident was responsible for 35 of the 99 injuries in small game season. Incomplete accident reports by conservation officers this season indicate a dozen "in line of fire" accidents.

Grabbing the second spot for the dubious honor of causing most mishaps are hunters who leaned loaded guns against insecure vests, especially automobile fenders. Grasping gun by muzzle and/or brushing it against an object has resulted in wounding several more hunters.

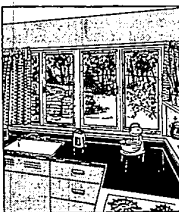
"Screwball" accidents such as trying to pick up a gun and fire it at the same time, throwing gun butt against hard ground causing it to discharge and heating a porcupine with stock of loaded gun have added to the injury list.

Conservation officers also have reported some accidents by careless hunters without permission of their parents.

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**800 Applicants To Try
For Conservation Posts**

A record 800-plus applicants for jobs as conservation officers will take civil service examinations in several Michigan cities next January 7.

Applicants must have graduated

from high school, weigh not less than 140 pounds, stand not less than 5' 8" or more than 6' 4" in stocking feet, and must be at least 23 years old but not more than 30 next December 14.

A high proportion of college graduates and veterans have sought conservation officer appointments since the close of World War II.



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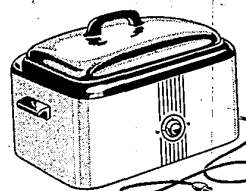
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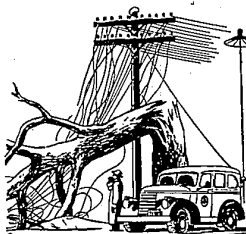
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A very Merry Christmas to all of you from all of us

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