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Bean Growers
Cut 1950 Crop

Michigan bean farmers are wrestling with acreage figures preparatory to taking a total cut of about 21 per cent in area planted this year to comply with recent federal allotments.

Clarence Prentice, Michigan State College marketing specialist, says acreage allotted Michigan is 29 per cent of the U. S. total. While the reduction for this state is in line with the national average, the specialist says Michigan growers have not increased acreages in recent years as much as Western growers.

Michigan's acreage has increased about 25 per cent in the last quarter of a century, but during that period Prentice reports Idaho production up about 300 per cent, Colorado 200 per cent and California about 50 per cent. Bean consumption has increased enough to make up for acreage increases like that in Michigan, but not for big increases in other states.

Prentice points out that planting within the acreage allotment is not mandatory, but it is required for government price supports. The 1950 crop will be supported at an average of \$4.30 a hundred, which is about 25 cents lower than current supports.

The government now owns or is expected to take over in the near future a total of nearly 8 million one-hundred pound bags of beans. This, according to Prentice, is almost equal to the bean requirements for food for the next year.

Individual farm allotments are being based on bean acreage history for those farms for the years of 1947, 1948, and 1949.

Small Seeds Need
Shallown Planting

In any seeding with spring sown grains, one of the biggest mistakes is to cover the small seed too deep, cautions C. M. Harrison, farm crops authority at Michigan State College.

Small seeds have only a minimum of stored food to last them from the time germination starts until new green leaves have pushed above ground for further food manufacture. Thus, Harrison says, any method which will insure shallow planting, will result in quicker establishment of the legume plant. Be sure the small seeds drop behind instead of in front of the disks. Put a small piece of garden hose or conduit wire on the small seed spout to help shoot the small seed behind the disk.

Don't be too afraid to put on enough phosphate and potash as fertilizer, Harrison reminds. Legumes are heavy users of these two plant foods and a good supply drilled into the ground before or at seeding time will help to get the plants started right. Waiting until the field is established before fertilizing is usually a mistake. You must first have something to topdress and unless it is added at seeding time, you may not have any legume plants started at all.

New Department Head



RONALD H. NELSON

The new head of the animal husbandry department at Michigan State College will be Dr. Ronald Nelson. He will succeed George Brown, for 43 years a member of the department and for 41 years its head, who retires effective July 1. Dr. Nelson has degrees from the University of Wisconsin, Oklahoma A. & M. College and Iowa State College and has been a member of the animal husbandry staff at the East Lansing college since 1946.

April Features
Spring Clean-Up

With the coming of spring, we should give nature a hand by planning clean-up time around the farm, David G. Steinicke, Michigan State College farm safety specialist, said this week.

The whole of April has been set aside as "Clean-Up Month". Steinicke believes that a few hours spent now to clean out the barns may result in the saving of many days during the busy season later on.

Chores like gathering up tin cans, picking up loose wire, disposing of broken glass, and repairing fences help to make the place a safer and more pleasant place to live.

Protect Peach Crop
From Brown Rot Now

It won't be long until peaches are in bloom in Michigan, and Ed Andrews, extension plant pathologist at Michigan State College, is advising growers to use time between now and then to knock peach brown rot mummies from the trees.

Most healthy fruit left on trees drops soon after harvest time, Andrews says. All fruit hanging in the tree at this time is infected with the brown rot fungus. Leaves come out when peaches are in bloom and mummies cannot be seen readily, making it harder to knock them out of the trees. An hour or two spent in each acre of peach orchard with a broom stick will help to insure the success of future brown rot control sprays.

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MILKING EQUIPMENT: Electric Hot Water Heater, Double Wash Vat, HAY - GRAIN - STRAW: 600 Bushels of Ear Corn, 100 Bales of Hay, 40 Bales of Straw.

14 HEAD OF DAIRY COWS: Mostly Guernseys; All Cows Range Tested; Guernsey Cow, 7 years, new milk, bred back Jan. 17; Durham Heifer, 2½ yrs., due in March; Guernsey Heifer, 2½ yrs., due in March; Guernsey Cow, 3 yrs., due in April; Guernsey Cow, 6 yrs., due in April; Guernsey Cow, 6 yrs., due in April; Durham Cow, 2 yrs., freshened in November, bred back; Guernsey Cow, 6 yrs., freshened in November, bred back; Guernsey Cow, 4 yrs., bred October 15, milking; Guernsey Cow, 4 yrs., freshened in August, bred back November 21; Guernsey Cow, 4 yrs., bred October 30 milking; Holstein Cow, 2 yrs., new milk, open; Black Jersey, 7 yrs., new milk Jan. 21; Guernsey Cow, 2 yrs., new milk January 12. HEID BULL, 18 Months Old.

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FARM FEATURES

NORTHERN FIELD
DAY FEATURES
FORESTRY

To encourage forestry, game recreation and related uses on land not suitable for general farming, a Conservation Field Day is planned for April 19 in Grand Traverse county. The statewide event will be sponsored jointly by the Michigan State College Extension Service, Michigan Department of Conservation, U. S. Soil Conservation Service and the Grand Traverse Soil Conservation District.

Arthur W. Giddens, county agricultural agent in Grand Traverse county, says many demonstrations will be held at the Kingsley school forest. This is one of the oldest school forests in the state and continued plantings and selected cuttings during the past 18 years have established an ideal set-up for the meeting. An adjacent sugar bush owned by Howard Dunn of Kingsley will provide a site for a farm woodland management demonstration and maple syrup production methods.

Attention will also be given to planting of pines for reforestation, pulp, lumber products, game cover and Christmas trees. Forest fire control systems and other demonstrations will be shown.

The forest is located a mile and a half north of Kingsley and Giddens hopes from 2,000 to 5,000 people will attend.

Add Acreage For Fruit
Crop Experimentation

Purchase of an additional 27.2 acres of land for the South Haven experiment station will enable Michigan State College plant breeders to expand work in strawberry and apricot breeding and experimentation.

The land will bring to 57 acres the size of the South Haven Branch of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, according to Karl H. McInnes, secretary of the state board of agriculture.

Stanley Johnston, superintendent of the station, is recognized as one of the nation's outstanding fruit breeders and has been responsible for developing the Haven peach varieties which have lengthened the growing season for many Michigan growers. Johnston has been head of the station since 1929 when he graduated from MSU.

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