

FARM FEATURES

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Silage Feeding Time Can Be Cut

Feeding silage to dairy cows by the fork or basket method is one of the best examples of wasted time and work on many farms, says B. R. Bookhout, farm management research specialist at Michigan State College.

Use of a silage cart, he says, saves three-fourths of the walking done with the fork method, and nearly all of the heavy lifting. Bookhout published results of a study made at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station in the current issue of Michigan Farm Economics, agricultural economics department monthly publication.

The study revealed that in feeding a 15-cow herd with the fork method, a farmer walks more than a quarter of a mile a day. This chore takes him 20 minutes. By using a basket he walks 325 feet, and takes 15 minutes to do the job. With a silage cart the feeding takes 13 minutes and he walks only 375 feet.

Silage carts cannot be used on all farms due to a barn structure. But in many cases, minor changes such as widening a door or replacing a step with an incline would permit the use of a cart. Bookhout says.

The full advantage of the cart is obtained when it is run under the silo chute and filled as the silage is thrown down.



SURPLUS POTATO "BLUES" — Tons of surplus potatoes bought by the government under the price support program are being treated at storage depots to prevent their being smuggled back into the commercial market. Above, workman Roy Gibson "injects" a harmless blue dye through a perforated steel rod into sacks of potatoes at the government's storage plant, Cochocton, N. Y.

Check Hatchery For Best Chicks

When you're buying your chicks this spring, look for three things stressed by Michigan State College extension poultrymen:

First, know the pollorum control, breeding program, and reputation of your hatchery.

Second, know that your hatchery is under official supervision by the Michigan State Poultry Improvement Association.

Third, buy from a nearby National Plan hatchery. If possible, drive to your hatchery to get your chicks or have them delivered in the hatchery truck, thereby avoiding the shipping disease hazard.

Shorthorn Cattle Sale

WHEN — 1 P.M. Saturday, April 22.

WHERE — Livestock Pavilion, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan.

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Continue Fruit Pest Research

During 1949 a total of 1,842,915 tart and sweet cherry trees were checked for cherry fruit fly and other insects and diseases in 20 leading cherry-producing counties by inspectors from the Bureau of Plant Industry, Michigan Department of Agriculture, reports C. A. Boyer, Chief.

As part of the control program of cherry fruit fly, infested cherries are buried under emergence cages. In the spring these cages are closely observed to detect the exact time the white banded fly and dark bodied fly emerge. Emergence dates are immediately reported to the Entomology Department of Michigan State College, who in turn determines the spray dates for each area for control of the cherry fruit fly, and so notifies the county agricultural agent and fruit growers.

Compilations indicate that last year the greatest range of emergence dates occurred in Kent County (June 6 to June 23) with a total emergence of 62 flies, while in Oceana County, 114 were detected between June 17 and June 24.

As the picking season approaches, the inspectors collect fruit from neglected cherry trees and orchards, and from orchards adjacent to neglected ones. This fruit is labeled and tested in the travelling laboratory to determine the presence of cherry fruit fly maggots. When infestation is found, the owner is notified and required to pick all the cherries and bury them after they have been covered with hydrated lime. In the 1949 season 129 infestations were located. These were mostly neglected trees in the urban areas of Berrien and Kent Counties. Light infestations were also detected near woodlots and fence rows where the wild pig-cherry acted as "host" from which the cherry fruit fly migrated.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture cooperated with cherry growers in the cutting of neglected cherry trees in urban areas and removal of neglected orchards. In some cases pincherries were also removed to eliminate as much as possible the source of infestation. In 1949 10,855 cherry trees were removed. Compilation over a 10-year period shows a total of 290,353 removed by the state and property owners.

In conjunction with the orchard inspection 235,206 individual trees were checked for cherry yellow virus. A study of the resultant data indicates cherry yellow infections were mostly neglected trees in the 1 to 5 year age group of trees, to 13.5% in the 21-year plus age group, with an average incidence of infection for all trees checked, of 7.7%.

If soil is approximately neutral in reaction, a concrete tile with correct specifications should be all right. In urban acid or alkaline soils, however, concrete tile can't be expected to stand up any great length of time. Clay tile is better in this type of soil.

Early pasture is good for both sows and their litters. Michigan State College animal husbandry specialists say that putting the pigs on pasture as soon as possible, helps avoid the dangers of anemia and other baby pig ailments.

Start creep feeding for little pigs at two weeks, say swine specialists at Michigan State College. You can feed most any mixture, but cracked grain is better than fine ground grains.

Farm Census Guides Future Planning

Importance of the giving complete and accurate figures in the 1950 farm census was emphasized this week by C. V. Ballard, director of the Michigan Cooperative Extension Service.

Although individual information is personal, the director pointed out that totals gathered furnished basic data to be used until another federal census is taken.

"It is highly important that an accurate and complete census be taken because farmers, industry, government agencies and other groups will depend upon the figures as a guide," Director Ballard commented.

Information is summarized by areas such as county or state which will give the basis for developing agricultural programs for determining the shift in crop or livestock numbers. Facts concerning individual farms are never revealed.

Kent Oat Seed Now Available

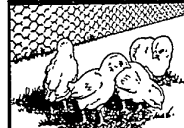
Seed of Kent oats, a variety released by the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station in 1948 and increased under certification in 1949, is available in good supply for planting this season.

County agricultural agents can supply a list of seed sources or sources may be obtained by writing to the Farm Crops Department, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan.

Always watch calves carefully to detect any signs that a calf may be illing. Don't give an ailment a chance to progress even to the next feeding. A delay of too many hours may be dangerous.

Make sure you have plenty of summer pasture. Good summer pasture not only makes for high production during the grazing period but also puts the cow in shape to do a better year-round job.

POULTRY POINTERS By Your Dr. Salisbury's Dealer



When chicks are 1 to 4 weeks old, turn them into a small pen or sunporch. After a few days, weather permitting, allow chicks to roam clean range. Grass seed or clover provides good range. Avoid bare spots and move feeders daily to prevent poultry diseases.

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