

FARM FEATURES



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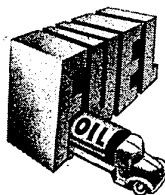
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Weather Affects Honey Bee Work

The complaint that the bees are working the dandelions and not the fruit blossoms, is heard frequently during the blossom period of the year.

Laymen who watched the habits of bees and flowers in the blossom period just passed, are inclined to blame this kind of bee activity for poor pollination of the fruit blossoms and light sets of fruit.

J. C. Kremer, of the Michigan State College horticulture department, says that weather conditions are more important than the bees' individual preference. Both dandelions and fruit blossoms are good honey plants, producing nectar and pollen, and are equally attractive to bees at certain temperatures. As the temperature varies only one or the other may be attractive to bees.

"Growers often lay the blame on the bees, when the blossoms are at fault," Kremer explains. "The dandelion prefers the cooler temperatures of 55 to 70 degrees, but closes its blossom if higher temperatures prevail. The fruit blossoms prefer the warmer temperatures ranging from 65 to 80 degrees. As the bees visit the blossoms to obtain their food in this form of pollen and nectar, they work the blossoms only when this material is available."

At lower temperatures bees are usually found on dandelions and in warmer weather on fruit trees. When conditions are right, they work both blossoms. This competition for the services of the bee is usually of short duration as the temperature rises. If temperatures rise rapidly, no cause for complaint is heard as the bees devote their time to the fruit blossoms entirely.

Careful harvesting is necessary for quality barley, advise Michigan State College farm crops specialists. Out of thirty samples examined in one county in 1948, more than half were of poor quality due to excessive cracking and skinning.

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HORTICULTURIST



DR. JOHN P. TOMKINS

Special work in small fruit culture in Michigan will begin July 1 with the appointment of Dr. John P. Tomkins to the department of horticulture at Michigan State College.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Dr. Tomkins has been employed at the New York State Experiment Station where he was working on grapes, strawberries, and raspberries. He has had experience in research in the field of small fruits and will work on these problems in Michigan. He was awarded the Ph.D. degree from Cornell University.

Dr. Tomkins' appointment is in recognition of the ever-expanding small fruit industry in Michigan.

Sanitation, Sprays Are Fly Control Keys

It is nothing new for farmers to be troubled with flies in dairy barns during the spring and summer, but Michigan State College entomologists say there are numerous ways to remedy the situation. The best way yet devised to get rid of the fly is to exterminate his place of breeding, which is wherever manure or rotten plant materials are found. All manure should be scattered on the fields where it does the most good.

Draining of low wet places is important. Flies don't breed where it is dry. Screens should be used on the dairy barn to keep flies out. Screens on the milk house are a necessity.

Inside of the dairy barn, 10 pounds of 25 per cent wettable lindane powder or 40 pounds of 50 per cent wettable methoxychlor powder to 100 gallons of water should be used for spraying. However, smaller amounts of spray solution can be made by reducing both the amount of insecticide and water, for example, one pound of lindane to 10 gallons of water.

Sprays should be put uniformly on the walls and ceilings. Avoid too much run-off. As a word of warning, Ray L. James, MSC extension entomologist, urges farmers not to get lindane or methoxychlor into water, on drinking cups, or on the feed.

Regular Diet Still Fish Hatchery Favorite

The regular diet still is the favorite with the state trout hatchery at Grayling, conservation department fisheries workers find after tests with a specially commercially prepared fish food reported to have found favor in several western states.

Tests at the hatchery indicate less mortality and a better growth rate with the regular formula of pork melts and horse meat as compared with the commercial preparation which combines other packing house products and cereal.

The more expensive commercial food has found favor in western states which had been utilizing diets comparatively less favorable.

According to Dr. L. N. Allison of the department's Institute for fisheries research, taste comparisons of the two groups of trout revealed no apparent advantage of the commercial product over the home diet. To impartially compare taste quality, fisheries workers were served portions labeled only as "A" and "B." With exception of Allison, no other personnel knew which portions had been fed on the regular diet.

"Fishing Ambassador" Proves Point Again

That conservation department ambassador without portfolio is at it again.

Advised that some Muskegon lake anglers believe their poor spring walleye fishing is due to the department transfer of these pike above the Newage dam, Harold S. Olsen went out and caught his daily limit of five, two days in a row. And then the Lansing native called it quits because "catching big walleyes here was too easy."

Don't Neglect Pigs In Summer

As a swine raiser did you ever hear of "harvest disease?"

Then perhaps it was "haymaking disease?"

Probably you've never heard of either one, but W. N. McMillen, Michigan State College swine researcher, has tagged those names on the neglect spring pigs get during the busy haymaking or harvest season.

Shade, water and adequate feed are the greatest needs for young growing pigs in the summer time. Too often, McMillen believes, farmers get busy harvesting grain and the pigs, and the pigs do not get the proper attention when they are growing. Then they are not ready for the early fall market.

To keep the pigs healthy, McMillen recommends a pasture regime if you have it to spare. Annual pasture such as rape or Sudan is

good. If there are no trees in the pasture, some artificial shade should be provided. Pigs need more water in the summer time, just as people do. McMillen says the most satisfactory way to provide adequate water is with an automatic watering system.

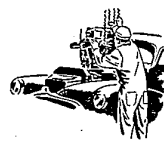
Feeding that will prevent neglect can best be provided by self-feeders. Along with automatic waterers, self-feeders can help insure your pigs getting adequate feed while you are busy with the summer farm work.

Growing pigs need supplement along with grain, and McMillen says it can be mixed or fed free choice. Unless the supplement contains a mineral, be sure about two per cent minerals are mixed with the grain or fed free choice.

Sudan Grass pastures make good grazing during hot, dry summer months, say Michigan State College agricultural specialists. The Sudan pastures help to save grain and are good for livestock.

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EFFECTIVE JUNE 20

New telephone rates for Michigan Bell customers

THE Michigan Public Service Commission has authorized increased local rates for Michigan Bell telephone service, beginning June 20, 1950. The increase was granted after a thorough 18 months' study of Michigan Bell's application, which was filed in December, 1948. It does not change the long distance rates now being charged.

The revised rates represent increases of from 25c to 75c a month for residence service. Increases for business customers range from 50c per month upward.

Each Michigan Bell subscriber will receive specific information about the new rates with the first telephone bill dated on or after June 20.

The reason for the new rates is a very simple one. The costs of providing telephone service have climbed much faster than revenues. And the rate increases granted have lagged far behind the increases in costs.

In the last ten years, for example, general increases in basic wage levels alone have added \$35,000,000 a year to operating costs. But during the same period, telephone rate increases, including the present one, will

have added only \$21,000,000 a year to revenues. Only recently we received demands from the telephone union for changes in its contracts which, if granted, will add still more to our expense. This, of course, is not provided for in the rate increase just granted.

Even with the present increase, the average telephone bill has risen less than half as much as the prices of things that make up the cost of living. In terms of value—in terms of the working hours needed to pay for it—telephone service is cheaper now than before the war. A telephone in the average home costs less per day than a package of cigarettes, a quart of milk or a gallon of gasoline.

Michigan Bell must keep on adding to its telephone bill has risen less than half as much as the prices of things that make up the cost of living. In terms of value—in terms of the working hours needed to pay for it—telephone service is cheaper now than before the war. A telephone in the average home costs less per day than a package of cigarettes, a quart of milk or a gallon of gasoline.

This rate increase, although much less than the amount needed, will help to strengthen Michigan Bell's financial condition—and thus help us to provide you with the kind of telephone service you want, when and where you want it.

A financially healthy telephone company is good for everybody

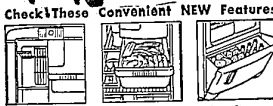
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