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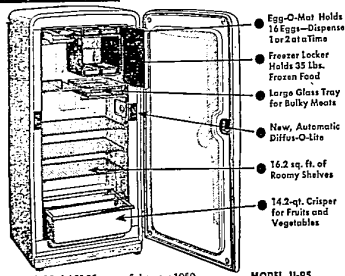
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FARM FEATURES

Harvest Wheat Only When Ripe

Several thousand bushels of Michigan wheat were lost last year because some farmers combined their wheat before it was ready. A golden yellow color doesn't indicate the wheat field is ready for harvest, according to Michigan State College extension specialists. But it does mean harvest time is approaching.

One of the best ways to find out whether the field is ready to be harvested is to rub several heads of wheat between the hands. If the wheat kernels shell out easily it means that the crop is approaching the time it should be harvested. However, it still doesn't signify the crop is ready for harvest.

Another helpful method is to use the salt test. Wheat growers not familiar with the salt test should contact their county agent or the local elevator manager. A final test can be run by an elevator operator to determine the moisture content. This is called the moisture test.

If the moisture test shows the wheat contains more than 14 per cent moisture, the wheat is not ready to combine. Wheat combined before it is ready, or too soon after a rain, will not keep in storage either on the farm or in the grain elevator. The temptation may be strong to harvest the wheat before it is down to 14 per cent moisture content. However, wheat growers should remember that bin damage has caused huge losses of Michigan wheat not only last year, but for many years.

Information telling growers how to prevent damage to stored wheat is contained in an extension folder numbered 124. It may be obtained from any county extension agent or by writing the Bulletin Office at Michigan State College at East Lansing.

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WALKING IS A FEAT WITH 4 OF THEM—Charlie, the chicken, has to think twice about going for a walk because he has twice as many feet as his fine-feathered friends. Were it not for the fact that his rear feet point backwards, Charlie could easily move "on the double." As it is, the chick, who is owned by Mrs. Oliver Carpenter of Seneca, N. Y., never knows whether he's coming or going.

GOOD POTATO CROP CALLS FOR CLOSE ATTENTION

A good stand of potatoes depends on killing bugs and eliminating diseases which attack the foliage, according to H. C. Moore, Michigan State College farm crop specialist. Late blight takes a heavy toll of the state's potatoes. Early blight, another fungus disease, kills the vines prematurely and reduces the yield considerably. The greatest loss is caused by leaf hoppers, flea beetles, and the Colorado potato beetle.

Potato growers can check the spread of fungus diseases and control insect activity by applying thorough and timely sprays or Bordeaux mixture and DDT. The formula to use is eight pounds copper sulphate and four pounds hydrated lime to 100 gallons of water with one and one-half to two pounds of 50 per cent wettable DDT. Late in the season the DDT may be omitted if insects are not a problem.

In place of Bordeaux, growers may use the fixed coppers or Dithane for control of blights. Directions given by the manufacturer should be followed closely.

The first spray should be applied when plants are about four inches high. Other applications should be applied throughout the season at seven to ten-day intervals.

To stop the spread of fungus growth and insects both upper and lower leaf surfaces must be covered with spray.

When plants are small, four to 12 inches high, 100 to 125 gallons of spray per acre should be applied. Later in the season 150 gallons or more per acre may be necessary. Spraying has generally proved better than dusting for the control of blight and insects. However, dusting may be more practical when water is not nearby.

Predict July Farm Trends

Here are some farm outlook predictions for July, as seen by Michigan State College agricultural economists. The forecast is contained in the current issue of Michigan Farm Economics, monthly extension publication available to farmers and others interested in timely topics about the business of farming.

The seasonal price decline for Michigan wheat will likely be less than in recent years, although market prices at harvest time will be below the government support price. The average price should be near the loan rate following the harvest rush. Support price will be 90 per cent of July parity.

Top grade slaughter cattle prices are expected to work toward their seasonal peak during July. Stocker and feeder prices should hold steady or work lower. Hog prices probably will be steady to slightly higher.

Egg prices will be about five cents a dozen above June levels. As we enter the short production season, poultrymen can well afford to concentrate on keeping good layers in production as long as possible.

The market for dry edible beans is expected to be strong for the balance of present crop. The price of the 1950 crop may depend upon how much of the crop is grown within acreage allotments. Support price has been set at \$6.30 per hundred-weight national average, on thrushrun basis. This is also the expected farmer loan price for white pea beans. Farmers overplanting allotments of beans will not be eligible for support guarantees.

You can't check on a cow's production if you don't have some kind of record. Michigan State College dairymen say that weighing milk from each cow daily will help to give an idea of the cow's annual production. Then you can decide whether or not to keep the cow.

Kill Small Grasshoppers Now To Prevent Loss

Instead of waiting to see if grasshoppers are going to do damage this year, farmers should kill the small grasshoppers in and around the hatching bed now, according to Ray L. James, extension entomology specialist at Michigan State College.

It is a known fact that it is much easier to kill small grasshoppers now than it is to get rid of the larger ones which will be destroying crops later on in the season. Farmers should watch for areas where small grasshoppers are located. These areas can be spot treated with insecticide.

If in doubt about the proper methods of ridding fields of grasshoppers, farmers should by all means contact their county agent. If crops and fields are treated early, it should cost less since smaller areas will be in need of treatment.

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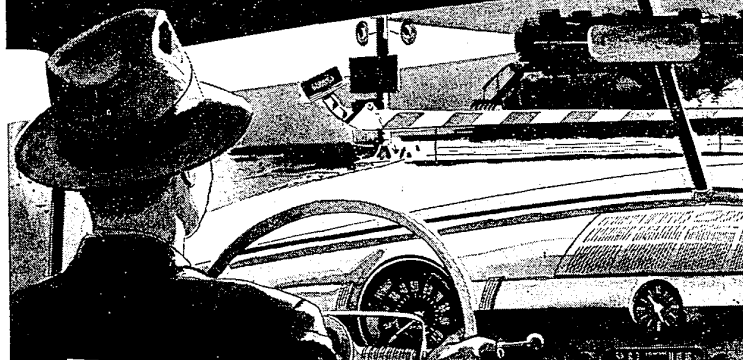
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