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FARM FEATURES

NEW 4-H CLUB AGENT



JOHN K. BRAY

Mr. John K. Bray of Saginaw, Michigan, took over duties as Oakland County's 4-H Club Agent July 26, according to Edmund W. Alchib, Oakland County Agricultural Agent.

Mr. Bray is a recent graduate of Michigan State College where he majored in agricultural extension and dairy production. Mr. Bray is a former 4-H Club member, carrying projects for eight years in dairy and field crops. He is a veteran of World War II, having served in the 11th Airborne Division in Japan.

Mr. Bray is married and he and Mrs. Bray will live at the 4-H house at 2075 Commonwealth Road, Pontiac.

Most vegetables will drop in the hot sun, even soon after a rain; but if they are upright and crisp the next morning, they may not need water. But when they are wilted in the morning, soak the soil.



DOES SHE DESERVE
A SUPER SEND-OFF?



FOWL PLAY—A flurry of feathers proved too much for this North Carolina farmer, five-year-old Robert Stamey of Statesville, so he closed his eyes and went right on with the struggle to hug this indignant rooster to the family frying pan. Later, young Stamey opened his eyes and mouth to a hard-earned chicken and dumpling dinner.

IRRIGATION PROVES VALUABLE AID IN FARM RESEARCH

Irrigation continues to find new favor with farmers who put in systems to provide supplemental water for their crops. Research workers, too, find it a valuable aid in promoting normal plant growth.

Dr. Robert L. Carous, research horticulturist at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, points to the fact that Michigan has less rainfall available for crop growth than any other state east of the Mississippi River. A new system of irrigation installed on the Michigan State College farms aids the scientists in learning satisfactory growth of crops and in studying the timing and quantity of water that is needed for various crops.

Irrigation experiments are being carried on this season with the cooperation of horticultural researchers and agricultural engineers on such crops as tomatoes, sweet corn, snap and lima beans, cabbage, cauliflower, melons and cucumbers.

These studies attempt to determine the irrigation needs of crops in relation to soil, moisture under rain conditions, spacing and fertilization.

Work with irrigation in 1949 indicated that in a year in which rainfall is as much as 25 per cent greater than the average, little response can be expected from irrigation unless the rate of fertilization is increased. In a dry year, with rainfall as much as 25 per cent below average, increases in tomatoes, sweet corn, and beans, given four inches of irrigation water, ranged from 43 to 126 per cent.

Stress Need For Cut In Farm Accidents

Farm Safety Week, observed July 23 through 29, emphasized the great need for cutting the nation's annual toll in dead and disabled rural people.

David Steinhilke, extension farm safety specialist at Michigan State College, points out that 17,500 fatalities result from farm accidents each year.

Safety is not only a one-week proposition, he emphasized. Each season brings its own crop of hazards: harvest, winter fires and icy weather, spring tractor accidents, and motor vehicle accidents.

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LIST SITES FOR 1951 GRASS DAY PROGRAMS

With the 1950 Michigan State College Grass Days program barely over, plans are underway for another series of educational demonstrations for 1951.

Locations for six of the all-day demonstrations next year have already been selected and committees are preparing demonstration plots to be ready for showing next June.

Richard Bell, farm crops specialist and chairman of the 1950 Grass Days committee, says the greatest interest shown in the educational tours was a feature of the events this year. An average of 2,400 people attended the eight Grass Days held throughout Michigan.

Farmers were eager to study the results of fertilizer and management procedures and methods to get better seedlings. As usual, machinery demonstrations were popular, but the big increase in interest was in the growing and utilization of grasses and legumes.

In 1951, two Grass Days will be held in each of the three extension districts in lower Michigan.

Farms listed for 1951 events include: Franklin Kells farm near Avesa in St. Clair County; Matthew Borzenich farm near Brant in Saginaw County; Flora Dotts farm near Manistee in Manistee County; the Ralph Cook farm near Marshall in Calhoun County; Arthur Lefch farm near Stanton in Montcalm County. For the first time a Grass Day will be held on two neighboring farms the same day. This will be on the Clifford Shantz and the Handrich farm, operated by Elsworth and Arnold Handrich, near Fairview in Oscoda County.

Dates will be during the second and third weeks of June.

Complete Milking Raises Dairy Income

"That expression of 'good to the last drop' is an understatement insofar as a cow's milk is concerned. It's actually 'better to the last drop,'" according to W. W. Snyder, Michigan State College dairy authority.

The first milk drawn from the udder of the average cow is usually greatly lower in butterfat content than the last obtained in a milking. For instance, in a Wisconsin experiment the first quart tested only 1.4 per cent fat, the fourth quart 4 per cent fat and the stripplings 7.6 per cent butterfat. The average of the complete output for one milking of this animal was 3.3 per cent.

Thorough milking, Snyder points out, means more butterfat and more income for the farmer.

Asters should be kept dusted with D.D.T. to prevent leaf hoppers from infecting them with the aster yellows. This disease sometimes attacks carrots. Leaf hoppers are juice drinkers, which also attack beans and potatoes, and are difficult to control except with D.D.T., which kills them when they walk on the leaves.

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