

Aids Farmers In Choice Of Corn Hybrid

With planting time approaching, Michigan corn growers have a new aid in solving their problem of selecting the best hybrid corn for their fields.

It's a new extension folder, F-67, which gives results of hybrid corn trials that are conducted annually at several locations in Michigan to provide impartial performance records and to determine what hybrids do best under different conditions.

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FARM NEWS

CREDITS MANY WITH SUCCESS OF FARMERS' WEEK

"Our greatest Farmers' Week in history can be credited to many people and things," remarked F. L. Anthony, Michigan State College's dean of agriculture at the close of the mid-winter event at East Lansing early in February.

"Our newspapers, radio stations and the farm press were largely responsible for getting us a record-breaking crowd of approximately 40,000 people. The good weather and ice-and snow-free roads were something we had not normally had during this week. But the way farmers and homemakers showed interest in our educational meetings was most pleasing to all of us," the dean concluded.

Efforts were made to meet the increased demands for higher production of food and fiber in the face of less labor and possibly less fertilizer and equipment seemed to be the aim of most visitors. Dean Anthony said staff members were highly pleased with the deep interest shown in gaining practical information to save labor and operating costs, and to improve living conditions.

"Each year we get more farmers participating in our programs to test of success with new research ideas as they are being applied in actual practice on the land. We learn from farmers as they learn from us."

LET CALF WEIGHT HELP DECIDE COWS TO BE CULLED

Check the weight of calves when deciding which beef cows to cull and which to keep in the herd, Michigan State College beef specialists advised State beef producers this week.

"They point out that the cows you keep in your herd should weigh marketable calves and the calves should show satisfactory weight for their age if the cows are doing the kind of a job they should. Otherwise it may pay you to cull the low-producing cows and replace them with ones that will make more money."

The NRC animal husbandmen also cited research results that show that a cow's period of highest calf production is between the ages of four and eight years. When cows get to be nine or ten years old they usually drop down to the production levels of two-and three-year-olds. So it's a good idea to closely check the calf yields of the older cows for possible culling.

Corn Planting Rate Affects Total Yield

Many farmers wonder about the cost of planting for a corn crop. They know that planting more seed will result in a greater number of plants, but they wonder if total yields will be as high.

Some recent studies at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station shed some light on this subject, says E. C. Rossman, farm crops researcher at Michigan State College.

Results from rate of planting studies conducted for two years show that corn yields went up about 50 per cent when the planting rate was doubled. Stands increased from about 9,700 plants per acre to 19,400 plants per acre.

Fishing is Michigan's most popular tourist attraction.

The Grist Mill

By Ed Alichin
County Agricultural Agent

The annual Dairy Day Program for Oakland County this year was about as successful as any we have ever held. Here are some of the highlights of the ideas that came out:

Art Bell reported on the pen type barn and that the best layout was one that allows cows to have free movement in the central part of the barn where they run loose. That means no feeders down the center. Water tanks and doorways should be properly spaced to cut down tramping of bedding. Doorways, according to Mr. Bell, should not be less than 12 to 15 feet wide, preferably 20 to 30 feet wide. Water tanks should be placed next to the doorways and insulated against freezing. He recommended a water cup rather than a tank. He definitely recommended a pit type of milking parlor where the milker works lower than the cows stand so that he can feed at or below their level of doors if outdoor bunks are built. Where a new construction is being made he recommended a feed barn and cattle barn placed in such a way as to offer protection from the north and west.

Anyone interested in Mr. Bell's assistance on new barns or remodeling, contact our office and we will try to make calls.

Jim Hays brought out some interesting points on feeding. There is something in certain feeds that cause cows to give milk that is not good for the baby. Grains, corn silage, early cut hay and young pasture all contain this factor. The lesson: Put up good quality roughage from early cut hay. Start the baby so that no hay gets into full bloom before it is cut.

Ketosis can be controlled or at least arrested by the use of cobalt in the ration. He recommended a veterinarian be consulted about this matter. By all means, for the difference in price, Jim recommended the use of mineralized salt containing cobalt and iodine.

The advantage in grass silage is being able to harvest hay and store it during the early summer weeks of bad weather. Early cut grass silage does have these factors which we mentioned before. So hay would be higher in protein and would offer an opportunity to cut the costs of feeding dairy cattle by as much as \$10 a year.

The farmer panel on getting seedlings bolted down to three points: good fertilizer and plenty of it (200 to 400 lbs of high analysis); good seed and proper seed bed. No matter when the seeding was made, fall, spring or early summer, those were the factors that counted.

Detroit Fisherman Looks Way Ahead

Detroit Robert Richmond is either not catching fish or chases away from the winter version of the sport.

The conservation department has received his request for any helpful information on... hot weather fishing.

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Spittle Bugs May Cut Legume Yield

"You can get best returns from spittle bug treatments of legumes grown for hay if you treat early while the spittle bugs are young and before the legume crop is too old," Ray L. Jones, extension entomologist at Michigan State College, told Farmers' Week visitors last week.

Another angle to early treating is that it avoids the possibility of having undesirable poisonous residues on the crop at harvest time. Successful and safe treating of legumes for spittle bug control can only be done early, before the plants are five inches high.

Jones told the campus visitors that the only way to tell whether or not treatment will pay is to examine fields in late April and early May. "The orange-colored young bugs will first be found in tiny specks of foam or froth in the crown or on other parts of the growing plant. Treatment should not be delayed later than about ten days after the first egg hatch or not later than when the plants are five inches high. If there is less than one spittle mass to the plant it is questionable whether or not it will pay to treat."

He warned against treating within 35 to 40 days of harvest time for the crop. Pasturing should be avoided for the same length of time after spraying.

Bulletin Describes Public Land Policies

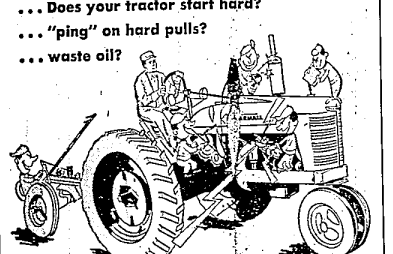
Studies of administration and management of the 30 million acres of public lands in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota have been compiled in a new bulletin, "Administration of Tax-Reverted Lands in the Lake States," issued by the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station.

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With planting time approaching, Michigan corn growers have a new aid in solving their problem of selecting the best hybrid corn for their fields.

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