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FARM NEWS

Control Program Checks Mastitis

A planned mastitis control program will enable you to rid your herd of this costly disease, says Charles Little, Michigan State College extension dairyman.

First, test and examine carefully all dairy cows to find their exact status, Little says. Separate infected cows from clean, healthy ones. Dispose of all badly infected cows or those with severely damaged udders.

To insure sanitation, the dairyman advises cleaning and disinfecting stalls where cows with any form of mastitis have lived before healthy animals enter. Use superphosphate or lime generously on all stable floors.

All replacement cows should be examined before purchase. Raise heifer calves to prevent under injury and prevent under suckling so teat areas are not broken.

Cows should be stable in well-bedded stalls, properly constructed to prevent under injuries. See that all udder and teat injuries are promptly and properly treated.

A good milking procedure is important, Little says. Before milking, every cow's udder should be wiped with a cloth moistened with a chlorine solution. Your county agricultural agent can tell you how to make this solution. Discard the foremilk into a strip can.

Dip teat cups into two separate pails of chlorine solution before milking each cow when milking by machine. If hand milking, wash hands before milking each cow.

INVITES YOUTHS TO JOIN 4-H IN CLUB WEEK

Any Michigan boy or girl who is interested in joining a 4-H Club is urged to do so during National 4-H Club Week, which began on March 1 and will continue through March 9. Information on how to join the 4-H information in Oakland County was given this week by John K. Bray, 4-H Club agent.

Anyone between the ages of 10 and 21 years is eligible to be a 4-H Club member. Although it is designed primarily for rural youth, boys and girls living in small communities and even cities are invited to join, Mr. Bray pointed out. He added that there are now clubs in most communities of the county and prospective members can join by indicating their desire to the local 4-H Club leader. Information on membership is available at county extension offices. In Oakland County, the Cooperative Extension office of Michigan State College is located at 1260 West Boulevard.

If your community does not have a 4-H Club and there are several boys and girls interested in forming one, the first thing to do is contact your county extension office. First job in getting started will be to find an adult leader or leaders interested in helping you with your project or projects. It takes at least five boys and girls to start a club.

Name Former MSC Ag Engineer To New Post

New director of agricultural engineering research for the U. S. Department of Agriculture is Dr. E. G. McKibben, former head of the Michigan State College department of agricultural engineering. A leader in his profession for many years, Dr. McKibben's findings are used in the farm equipment industry as a basis of safety testing for tractors. He was at Michigan State College from 1942 to 1945.

U. S. D. A. agricultural engineering research deals with machines, materials, methods, power and labor, farm buildings and housing, and the application of electricity to processing and other farming operations.

Latest Figures On Gas Available To Farmers

Latest information on LP-gas or liquefied petroleum gas is now available to farmers. The figures on cost, performance and other vital points have been collected by W. M. Carleton of the Michigan State College agricultural engineering department.

Carleton has put this information into printed form in extension folder F-164. The folder is available at the county extension office or may be ordered from the bulletin office at the college in East Lansing. Farmers are finding many new uses for the product. Cooking, refrigeration, water and home heating, brooding chickens and other jobs have increased its use.

Lower feeding costs, better prices received and smaller death losses mean higher earnings for your dairy herd, say MSC extension dairymen.

Clean, test and treat all small grain seed before planting.

M. S. C. Specialist Gives Latest Information On Saving Lambs

"Saving a high percentage of the lamb crop is a must for getting top profits from the sheep enterprise," H. A. Henneman, Michigan State College animal husbandman, told farmers this week.

He also gave latest information on how to save more lambs and the new treatment for stiff-lamb disease. A loss of a few hours sleep during lambing will be well repaid and the flock needs frequent observation so you can give help when it's necessary.

Henneman advised farmers to provide plenty of clean bedding and shear around the udder and flanks before lambing time as two important steps in preparation. After the lambs come, disinfect the navel of the new-born animals with iodine to prevent infection. It is important that the lamb receive its first meal within 30 minutes to an hour after birth. A stomach full of warm milk is the best insurance against chilling.

Lamb the ewes in the warmest part of the barn and avoid drafts, Henneman advised. Place the ewe and lamb in a four-foot square lambing pen for three days. In cold weather, a brooder consisting of a 100-watt electric light bulb two feet from the floor will prevent chilling of the lamb. Keep grain from the ewe for the first two days but give her plenty of hay and water. On the

third day, grain can be fed and gradually increased to about a pound and a half a day.

If you're troubled with stiff-lamb disease, it may be wise to include some wheat germ oil in the ewe's ration as a source of vitamin E. A fourth to a half of the oil meal can be replaced by wheat germ meal in a ration such as 40 pounds of oats, 40 pounds of corn, 10 pounds of bran and 10 pounds of oil meal.

If you have stiff lambs, treat them with 100 milligram capsules of alpha tocopherol daily for three days and all of the lambs should receive these capsules two or three times a week. The capsules are available at drug stores.

To get the lambs off to a good start and prevent set-backs later, dock and castrate between three and seven days of age and provide a creep for the lambs at two weeks of age. Feed both hay and grain in the creep.

Poultry Economist Tells Farmers To Buy Chicks

Although it might not look logical to farmers now who are looking at their egg checks, Henry Larzelere, poultry economist at Michigan State College, says that it should pay Michigan farmers to buy more baby chicks than they had planned on this year.

Larzelere explains that economists have been predicting for the past several months that unfavorable egg prices would discourage farmers about raising chicks this year. The crop report just out indicates that farmers now intend to buy ten per cent fewer chicks than a year ago. This lower number of chicks will mean fewer pullets next fall, fewer eggs and higher prices.

By having a good pullet flock coming into production next fall, farmers will be able to take advantage of the good fall prices. And prices in the winter and spring of 1953 will be higher than this year.

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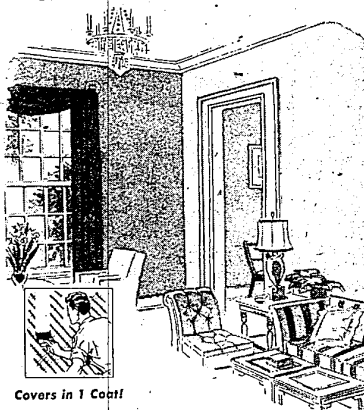
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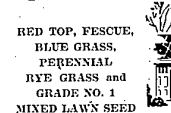
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