



From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Me—Advising a Banker!

The Missus and I were invited to dinner over at Balesville the other night. I sat next to a banker from the state capital.

"Mighty nice country you've got down there," he says. "Don't be surprised if I come to live there myself. In a few years I plan to get away from everybody, buy a farm and just take it easy."

"Well," I told him, "we'd like to have you. But when someone plans to buy a farm and 'take it easy' he often winds up working harder than ever. It takes a long time to farm right no matter how many

hands you can afford to hire. "And from where I sit," I continued, "you won't 'get away' from people either. Neighbors are plenty important in a farming community—whether it's helping one another out or just friendly visiting over a sociable glass of beer." "Hard work and neighbors dropping in all the time?" he asks, looking at me over his glasses. Then he smiles and says, "Sounds wonderful. You've just sold me on a farm."

Joe Marsh

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New Trees, Shrubs Need Year Long Care

New plantings of trees and shrubs need care throughout their entire first year, reports Willard E. Boserman, assistant county agricultural agent.

All injurious grass or other competing plants should be removed from around the tree or shrub. The space to keep cultivated around the newly-set plants will depend on the size of the plant but ordinarily would be half as wide as the spread of foliage.

Water all new trees and shrubs deeply once a week their first year, even if there has been rain during the week, unless the rain was an all-day down-pour. Plants can be damaged if kept wet all the time.

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Grain Support Program Assures Producers Of Good Wheat Price

Wheat growers are reminded by Walter R. Cook, chairman of the Oakland County Production and Marketing Administration Committee that the U. S. Department of Agriculture's grain price support program is in operation for the 1952 wheat crop.

Wheat growers this year are marketing one of their biggest crops and according to Chairman Cook, "The way they market their wheat will have a lot to do with the prices they receive."

"If they do not overload the market at harvest time, the seasonal price drop won't be so great. By spreading their marketing over a longer period, in line with market requirements, they will help stabilize prices and assure themselves a better return."

CCC purchase agreements also are available to wheat growers. A purchase agreement, the chairman explains, is a contract between CCC and the producer under which CCC agrees to buy a specific quantity of grain next spring at the support price provided the grain is of "loan" quality. The grower can sell in the meantime, but he is at least assured of the support price.

Full details on how to apply for a grain price support loan or purchase agreement are available at the Oakland County Farm Office, located at 18 South Perry Street, Room 320 Hubbard Bldg., Pontiac, Michigan. The phone number is PEderal 2-5533.

One of the new kinds of insurance now being written is protection against loss of food when the home freezer stops operating.

Most home freezers are well built and give good service. But wise homemakers make frequent checks on the freezer thermometer to be sure the appliance is in good working order. If they notice excessive or noisy running of the motor, or no running at all, they call a service man immediately. Both city and rural electric power systems offer good services. But nobody can guard against accidents such as an occasional bolt of lightning hitting the transformer or an unusual storm that brings down lines and also ties up transportation. When the freezer has been out of operation for more than 48 hours, food spoilage is a possibility.

Several makers of home freezers are providing insurance for loss of food in such an event. Sometimes the policy covers loss of food only when the freezer itself breaks down. Other policies cover both freezer break-down and non-operation due to power failure.

Any homemaker who keeps a large quantity of food in the freezer may well consider the money loss when a freezer is out of order for several days. The cost of insurance for such a policy depends on the amount of food insured. Homemakers can check with dealers for details.

Since 1931 West Virginia has held the lead in the production of bituminous coal.

Swimming Muskrat Puts On Show For Visitors

An intrepid muskrat put on a swimming exhibition for visitors at Palms Book state park recently, swimming in the stream in full view, then near the famed Kitchissippi spring, and then as a final daring feat, paddled to within a few feet of the dock for the visitors to see him clearly.

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CORN MAY START SHOWING SIGNS OF NITROGEN NEED

Some Michigan corn will start showing signs of nitrogen starvation any day now, according to Paul J. Root, Michigan State College farm crops specialist.

This nitrogen starvation will be shown by firing, starting at the tip of the lower leaves. After the tip turns yellow the brownish symptom of lack of nitrogen moves up the mid-rib of the leaf.

Root says that corn needs an extra shot of nitrogen right now, unless a green manure crop was plowed down before, or barnyard manure applied at the rate of 12 to 20 loads per acre before this crop of corn.

Experiments by college farm crops researchers have shown that you should side-dress corn with about 200 pounds per acre of sulfate of ammonia or 125 pounds per acre of ammonium nitrate. Either of these rates of application cost about \$8 an acre and should increase corn yields by about 20 bushels per acre on the average.

Coal may supply the bulk of the nation's oil by 1975.

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Spare Honey Bees When Killing Bugs

Various wild bees and the honey bee are among the legitimate seed growers' best friends. Fortunately most of the destructive insect pests affecting legumes can be killed by insecticides before the plants bloom.

E. C. Martin, Michigan State College entomologist, says this means that the job of controlling harmful insects should be completed before the bees come to the blossoms to gather nectar and pollen.

"Present recommendation for control of insects harmful to legumes-for-seed in Michigan is to apply DDT at the rate of one and a half pounds actual DDT per acre," Martin said. This DDT should be applied as a spray or dust a short time before the plants come into bloom.

If properly applied it will kill the harmful insects but will not bother the bees when their turn comes to work on the blossoms.

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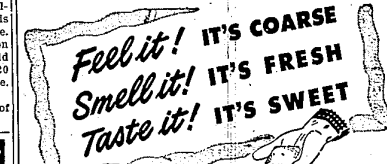
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Bean and grain drying equipment in Gremel barn. The fan at lower right is also used to move finish hay.

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For three years, Harold Gremel, Huron County farmer, searched for a better way to dry his beans and small grains. Then, with some help from Edison Farm Service Advisors, he successfully developed this electrically powered dryer that enables him to handle six to seven thousand bushels of beans and grain per season. Result: He can harvest when his crops are ready and cut down weather losses. This means higher

prices on the market.

Mr. Gremel farms 370 acres of land—100 in beans, 80 in small grain, 35 in beans—and milks a herd of 13 cows! As do many Michigan farmers, he is each year finding new ways to put electricity to work to lighten his load and give him greater security. For further information on farm electrical equipment, see your Edison Farm Service Advisor.

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Good wiring is always important. So always ask your Farm Service Advisor for his recommendations.