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# FARM NEWS

## MSC VETERINARIAN WARNS OF BLACKLEG OUTBREAK DANGER

This is the danger season for blackleg and farmers living in blackleg areas are urged to vaccinate animals before outbreaks occur. Dr. Glen Reed, Michigan State College extension veterinarian, issued the warning.

He said that all calves in blackleg areas should be vaccinated when three or four months old. The disease is caused by a spore-forming germ which can live in the soil for years. It may enter an animal's body through small cuts and punctures in the skin, or it may be picked up through grazing.

This disease usually is fatal, Dr. Reed said, and outbreaks occurred in some parts of Michigan last year. If you suspect the disease, look for symptoms which include dullness and lameness followed by a fever, swelling and loss of weight.

If blackleg is suspected, call your veterinarian immediately, the MSC specialist advised. If the trouble proves to be blackleg, the rest of the herd can then be protected by vaccination. Carcasses of animals which die from the disease should be buried or buried deeply under time to prevent the infection from spreading.

Dr. Reed said that there is little likelihood that the disease could affect humans, if it is possible at all.

## Advises Storage Of Wheat Now To Increase Farm Profits Later

This looks like a good year to store your wheat and sell later, Clarence Prentice, Michigan State College agricultural economist, says that flooding markets at harvest time and marketing wheat while moisture content is too high are costly to farmers.

Every year since 1928-'29 the market price of wheat has advanced to above the support program sometime following harvest.

Prentice points out. The seasonal low price usually has been at harvest time.

The problem of low prices at harvest time is apt to be worse this year because the largest wheat crop in Michigan's history will be harvested this summer.

Due to the lack of adequate commercial storage, a larger portion of the wheat crop will be stored on farms. For successful storage, the grain must be in good condition before filling with wheat or other grain. It should be tight, rat- and mouse-proof, clean and disinfected properly prior to use.

Wheat also should be stored containing less than 14 per cent moisture. Growers should wait until the grain is dry before combining. Wheat containing 14 per cent moisture or more just won't keep in Michigan, Prentice says. It spoils and becomes "sick wheat." Too much "sick wheat" moved to market from farmers' grain bins last winter at discounts as high as 50 cents a bushel.

## PROPER MILK CARE DIFFICULT IN HOT MONTHS

"Proper care of milk is always important but needs particular attention during the hot summer months," D. L. Murray, Michigan State College extension dairyman, reminded dairy farmers this week. Getting milk cooled quickly is one thing, but it's not the only consideration in producing quality milk, he pointed out. Cooling only preserves good milk — if it hasn't been kept clean, cooling doesn't help much.

To keep milk clean, rinse all the utensils and milkers with a dairy sanitizing solution just before milking. Bacteria spread rapidly in hot weather, so don't give them a chance to live on the pails.

Wipe the cow's udder with a clean cloth that has been dipped in a dairy cleaning solution. Dip the test cups of the milker in a different pail of solution before each cow is milked. As soon as the milk is taken from each cow get the milk out of the barn and into the milk house.

Murray advised putting the milk into the cooler as soon as possible. The cooler milk is cooled the lower the temperature, and the less bacteria will grow in it.

## Let Seeds Dry Before Harvest

"In harvesting small grain and legume seed, the material should be as dry as possible before combining or threshing," says C. M. Harrison, Michigan State College farm crops specialist.

Harrison suggests mowing and windrowing in early morning, while the material is still damp. This will aid in preventing seed from shattering. Once dry, the seed may be threshed, but care should be taken to set the threshing equipment to do the best job. Among other harvesting suggestions, Harrison said that settings for speed and air are particularly important as the material is easily blown through without proper threshing. One way to check is to hold a hat under the tail gate of the combine and see if a lot of seed is blown over.

"Since the seed is small, it cannot be seen lying on the ground. As a consequence, many fields are poorly threshed. Care in handling the field and in setting the equipment will result in a much higher percentage recovery than is generally the case," Harrison reminded farmers.

With the investment in time and money being what it is, it is important to get all the seed possible for greatest profit from the job.

## Sanitation, Spray Aid In Fly Fight

Fly control around the farm is no easy job, but sanitation and use of recommended spray materials will make it easier, according to Ray Jones, Michigan State College entomologist.

Sanitation means getting rid of all places where flies may breed. Jones said that unless breeding places are removed, it is doubtful that spray materials will do control job. Manure piles, damp areas, calf pens and similar areas are breeding places for flies.

Present regulations forbid the use of DDT in dairy barns. But lindane or methoxychlor will control flies in barns, Jones said. Ten pounds of 25 per cent wettable lindane powder, or 40 pounds of 50 per cent wettable methoxychlor powder, in 100 gallons of water is the correct strength. It should be applied in a coarse spray, but not in quantities that will run off the walls. Do not spray feeds, watering cups or mangers, Jones warned.

Outside walls or pig pens may be sprayed with DDT at the rate of 40 pounds of 50 per cent wettable DDT powder to 100 gallons of water. Chlordane, at the rate of 16 pounds of 50 per cent wettable powder for 100 gallons of water, also may be used. Lindane, mixed the same as for inside use, also is effective.

A combination of pyrethrum and niperonyl butoxide is now available for spraying for horse flies and will aid in control of deer flies. However, treatment will last only about five days over under the best circumstances and concentrated dosages. Follow instructions of manufacturers, Jones recommended.

## Rural Health Problems About Same As Urban

"Basically, rural health problems are little different from those in many urban areas." That is the conclusion drawn by Paul A. Miller, of the Michigan Cooperative Extension Service, when he presented a report to the President's Commission on Health Needs of the Nation.

Miller, a rural sociologist with the extension service, was on a seven-member panel on rural health needs and made a report recently of the panel findings to the full Commission in Washington, D. C.

## Twin Fawns Born Near State Capitol

Birth of twin fawns only nine miles from the state capitol building at Lansing is reported by the conservation department.

Baby deer were found in the woods at the Rose Lake Wildlife Experiment station by state game men while opening squirrel traplines for a summer population survey.

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**Sick Elk Object Of Study At Lansing**

A sick elk has been brought from Gaylord to East Lansing for study by conservation department personnel at Michigan State College.

The animal apparently is suffering from a disease or deficiency common in Michigan's elk herd, one symptom of which is blindness.

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Every farmer knows that it's hard, disagreeable work to climb into a silo every day and throw down silage. Charles Hubbell, Lapeer County farmer, has done something about it with a new electric silo unloader that does the job for him and saves at least an hour of work every day.

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