

FARM NEWS

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ADVISE MANURE COVER TO PROTECT WINTER WHEAT

Lack of soil moisture until mid-November is sending a lot of late-planted wheat into winter in poor condition. Heavy winter injury may develop from freezing and heaving, warns E. D. Longnecker, extension soil scientist at Michigan State College.

Some farmers have taken steps to protect the scanty top growth and root development by covering the thinner spots in wheat fields with stable manure while ground was dry. This light blanket of manure cuts freezing and heaving damage, explains Longnecker, as well as providing extra plant food, particularly nitrogen — which may be needed. It improves soil moisture conditions by lessening evaporation and increasing water intake during heavy rains.

Farmers still can reduce winter harm. If soil is dry enough to hold the spreader — or if not now, when ground freezes — they should start top-dressing their wheat fields with stable manure. If manure is not available by early winter, nitrogen next spring should help offset part of winter's damage.

Lake trout are ravenous feeders and prey upon all other fishes, although the chubs, herring and whitefish probably constitute their major diet.

Experts Advise All-Out Production To Offset Higher Expenses In 1953

All-out crop production not only will be good business in 1953 but will be the one who has high crop yields to offset higher expenses, advise Michigan State College economists.

Production must be consistent with good farm practices and practices must help boost the crop yield, they point out. Needed drainage should be put in. If land needs lime, it is a must. Then, the farmer can afford to buy more fertilizer and good seed

and do the job right — and get paid for it. Government estimates are for feed grains to be at a six-year low ebb by next October and that may mean higher 1953 feeding season feed prices. Crop prices are expected to reach about support level between January and May and to react to new crop prices from June through August. Farmers needing cash can be helped by the support price for corn, small grain, beans and seed for hay, pasture and cover-crops with a government loan. Insurance against selling below support prices can be obtained in a government purchase agreement.

Applicants for all loans or purchase agreements on all crops except corn must be obtained by January 31, 1953, and by May 31, 1953, for corn.

Corn production, where it fits, should be in farm plans for 1953, with stress on both acreage and yields. Farm crops specialists advise planting after legumes or using nitrogen side dressing, increasing planting rate, planting on soil under proper methods and the right seed.

The 1953 wheat prices will be supported at 90 per cent of parity, probably close to \$2.20 per bushel, and the supply is expected to be the third largest in history. The July, 1953, carry-over is expected to be twice that of 1952. Wheat is in the ground but manuring this winter and top dressing in the spring with nitrogen will pay well. The cash price promises to be quite different than the government loan price which follows the 1952 cash price. Planning ahead for storage will help in obtaining a loan or purchase agreement as protection. Price prospects for beans and sugar beans next year are higher but potato prices are expected to be off by next fall. Price trends offer some farmers, especially those on good land, an opportunity to emphasize crop production and then carry the livestock they can handle without extra help.

Re-Elected



WARD EAGLE

Ward Eagle of Farmington was re-elected to a three year term on the Board of Directors at the recent annual delegate meeting of the Michigan Milk Producers Association at East Lansing.

The association now has more than 16,000 members in the lower peninsula, supplying the largest part of the fluid milk being delivered to Detroit and 20 other key city markets throughout the state. During the fiscal year which ended September 30, 1952, the association markets nearly \$76 million worth of milk for its membership.

I. K. Maystead of Osseo was chosen president of the Michigan dairy association at the organizational meeting of the new Board of Directors for the coming year.

Look For Record Beef Herd In '53

The general livestock outlook for 1953 is lean, admits Robert C. Kramer, Michigan State College agricultural economist, but there are exceptions.

Farmers who feed cattle and sheep will do better than those who produce them. Farmers who have hog-breeding herds will make more money than in 1952, he explains.

Beef demands will remain about the same but there will be a record number of best cattle in 1953 — 92 million head — and more will go to market. Producers will sell for less than in 1952 but the retail price will not drop much, as labor and market hog costs will not be cut. Feeder cattle prices are off about \$10 and slaughter cattle about \$5. The stock feeder who watches his costs can make money.

The 1952 hog numbers were off by nine per cent and there will be fewer going to market in 1953 but at a better price. More sheep will be marketed and wool prices will be lower. Producers will find their sales averaging a bigger drop than the feeders will.

Milton Eisenhower Will Address Farm Group

A headline on the 1953 Farmers' Week program at Michigan State College will be Milton S. Eisenhower, president of Pennsylvania State College. He will speak Thursday afternoon, January 23, at the college auditorium, nine days after inauguration of his brother, Dwight D. Eisenhower, as president of the United States. A graduate of Kansas State College, where he was president before going to Pennsylvania State, he was formerly with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. He is now chairman of the board of the American Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities.

TURKEY CROP

Turkey production is up 13 per cent for a second year's record but the meat increase is only about ten per cent, because the big gain is in the smaller Delaware White breed, reports Henry E. Larzelle, Michigan State College poultry marketing specialist.

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Advise Early Care For Newborn Calf

The way to raise a calf right is to start working on it as soon as the calf is born, advise dairy extension specialists at Michigan State College.

The pen should be cleaned and disinfected so the cow can go into it several days before calving and help should be at hand for the cow when it is needed. If the cow does not clean up the calf, the dairyman should do it. As soon as possible, within an hour or two, the calf should be given some of the cow's new milk for the colostrum and its vitamin A.

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