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## Simple treatment curbs fence pole decay

Weather and insects can cause serious damage to the fence poles on your farm, especially if you use poles from your woodlot. These poles often are full of sapwood, which decays rapidly. According to the Forestry Department of Michigan State College, farmers can treat poles against decay, using chemical you can buy in most hardware or drug stores. Several preservative products are available. One of the newest tested and found satisfactory is "Penta" (Pentachlorophenol), the researchers say. If possible, the poles to be treated should be air seasoned first for six months. For more information call your County Agricultural Agent.



Maybe with Santa at the switchboard... everybody's Christmas Long Distance call could go through at the same time. But without Santa's magic, some calls may be delayed, because more calls are made at Christmas than any other time. You can be sure we'll have operators at our busy switchboards to handle all the calls the lines can carry. Even so, if you plan to make a Holiday Long Distance call, we suggest you call before Christmas Eve or after Christmas to avoid delays. Remember, too, if you call early, then men and women in the Armed Forces calling home on Christmas will have a better chance to get their calls through without waiting. They'll appreciate that.



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# FARM NEWS

## CAREFUL PRUNING OF TREES ADVISED FOR EASY PICKING

Pruning of apple trees can be started any time now. Some points to remember when pruning apples are listed below.

Remove all lower branches that drag on the ground. Branches that drag the ground are difficult to get spray material into for good insect control. Avoid cutting the lower branches too high — this will make picking more difficult.

On older, tall growing trees, remove some of the higher upright growing branches which have no tendency of bending. This step will let light down to the lower branches which will produce apples closer to the ground.

Bearing fruit trees should be pruned regularly and lightly — a little every year or at least every other year. A common mistake is to neglect the trees for several years and then prune them too severely. Of course, it often takes two or more years to get completely around the orchard.

Remember — a good job of pruning means better apples.

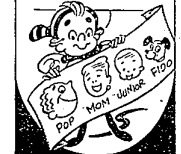
### CLIP AND CLEAN

Clipping the flanks and udders of dairy cows cuts the time in the milking parlor, by making udder cleaning easier, and reduces the lice population, suggests Donald L. Murray, extension dairymen at Michigan State College.

A cow given a six to eight week "vacation" between lactations will produce more milk, suggest Michigan State College dairymen.

### BEE-GEE

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## New Type Red Clover Increases Yield Half-Ton More Per Acre

Farmers in the south half of the lower peninsula can earn another \$2,800,000 annually by using a new red clover, it was announced at the Michigan Seed Producers and Dealers conference at Michigan State College.

Pennscot, a new variety from Pennsylvania, yielded a half ton more per acre than local clovers in MSC tests in three southern Michigan counties, reported Dr. Milo B. Teasler, farm crops researcher. The average increase is at least one-sixth. With an estimated 600,000 acres in clover in this lower Michigan area, this new seed can bring another 140,000 tons of clover. At \$16 a ton, that would be \$2,240,000 added income.

Farmers must wait until 1954 for seed supplies to accumulate. Tests were carried on by Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station to see if research-developed clovers gave better yields and were more resistant to diseases than local clovers. Nearly all Michigan's 1,100,000 acres of red or June clover are from local seed.

Tests in 1951 and 1952 were with nine varieties from other states and two locally-grown strains from Ingham and Alcona counties. Tests were made at the college farm at East Lansing, at the Kellogg Experimental Farm near Hickory Corners, at the T. O. Brittain farm near Adrian, and at the Lake City Experiment Station in Muskegon County.

Results are very promising. Pennscot clover gave top yields — an average of 3.1 tons to 2.7 for local strains and even more with Pennscot in lower Michigan. It also showed somewhat more resistance to the clover disease, Northern Anthracnose, than Kendall clover.

AGENT GIVES TIPS ON THE DIGGING OF FARM PONDS

In the past few months, the assistant county agricultural agent, Willard B. Bosserman, has visited a number of farms where the owner desired to know whether or not he could successfully dig a farm pond.

Bosserman states that there are two principal qualifications for a farm pond. First, that a permanent water table be supplied by some nearby lake. Second, that if depending on surface water, it is necessary to have a clay sub-layer to give three feet of clay for the bottom to hold the water. Only one of these qualifications is necessary.

There is a way to personally determine whether or not a given location is suitable for a pond. Dig several holes six or eight feet deep around the depression chosen for the pond. If use of a shovel is impractical, a post hole digger will do the job well. Observe the water levels in these holes during the dry season of the year. If the depression is dry, dig through the profile to determine whether or not there is sufficient clay to hold water.

After making these preliminary observations, Bosserman stated he would be glad to help with further planning.

USE ADAPTED SEED  
Seed that is wonderful in Ontario may not germinate well in Michigan; seed that Minnesota farmers like may not be disease-resistant in Michigan; seed that wins prizes in Pennsylvania may be a low-producer in Michigan. Out-of-state seed that is proven for Michigan will be handled by reputable seed dealers. MSC farm crops specialists advise.

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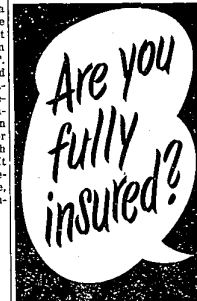
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## Bedding Saves Chemicals For Quality Fertilizer

Livestock bedding saves half the fertilizer value from farm animals by keeping the liquid from seeping away, advises Richard M. Swenson, soils scientist at Michigan State College.

About half the total nitrogen and more than half the total phosphorus in farm manure is in the liquids and in an available form. Dry sawdust and wood shavings will absorb about as much moisture as bedding but out straw and corncob bedding gives more nitrogen, phosphate and potash to plants. Any bedding is better as a manure-saver than none at all.



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