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## Sheep Shearing School Set For MSC Feb. 9-12

Farmers can learn to shear their own sheep or do custom work by attending the ninth annual State Sheep Shearing School February 9 through 12, at Michigan State College judging pavilion.

About 20 beginners enroll each year and the first two days are specially designated for beginners, either adults or 4-H, PFA and other farm youths. Many experienced shearers also attend the last two days to improve their skill. About 500 sheep from colleges and nearby farms will be sheared.

Some areas have difficulty in finding shearers to do the work, reports Graydon Blank, M S C sheep specialist. Farmers who can shear their own find it a big help to shear ewes before lambing where housing permits it.

E. S. Bartlett and E. A. Warner of Sunbeam Corporation, manufacturers of shearing equipment, will aid college personnel in the school, sponsored by the animal husbandry department and Cooperative Extension Service in cooperation with the Continuing Education Service of the college. The annual meeting of the Michigan Sheep Shearers Association will take place Wednesday, February 11.

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## Specialists, County Agricultural Agents To Launch All-Out War On Mastitis

Michigan State College extension specialists will team up with agricultural agents in 19 southern Michigan counties in a series of "Better Milking Clinics" from February 2 to 28.

The clinics will be aimed at control of mastitis in dairy herds by promoting better milking habits, as well as good herd management. Dairy specialists and Dr. Glen W. Reed, MSC extension veterinarian, will aid in the programs. Dr. Reed will talk on control of chronic mastitis, the unsuspected cause that infects other herd members, as well as the better-known acute mastitis.

## TREND REVERSES, MORE FLUID MILK GOES TO CITIES

A decided reversal in the national milk production trend during the past three months continues unabated and in Michigan an increase of nearly 18 per cent more fluid milk is being produced for Detroit and other cities this year than a year ago, is reported by the Michigan Milk Producers Association. This unprecedented production which was not anticipated has lowered prices all along the line from the butter and condensed markets to the fluid milk and cream markets. In Detroit a drop in the retail price became effective early in January, at a time when a scarcity usually exists and consumer prices are at their highest.

"Analyzing the high production trend is not easy," stated Howard F. Simons, secretary-manager of the M.M.P.A. "Last July in many milk markets, predictions of shortages during the fall and early winter were made. Late summer rains and an open fall probably contributed to the increase along with lower beef prices which caused producers to retain cows in their herds that normally would have been sold as beef. While there are a few new producers in the markets, enough shippers have discontinued to nearly offset them to the major portion of the increased production is attributable to greater productivity per cow and per farm.

"Fluid milk sales have run somewhat ahead of a year ago and the demand continues strong, but the butter market has been badly depressed and manufacturers of other products have ample stocks. Naturally the manufacturers will continue to buy milk only at a reduced price. This serves to depress fluid milk prices, especially in areas operating under Federal orders.

## Maple Syrup Season May Start In February

Spring may seem a long way off but the maple syrup season may sneak up on the "sugar bush" grower who is having too long a winter nap, cautions Lester E. Bell, extension forester at Michigan State College.

"Sap weather" could start the last week of February and it's not too soon now to get ready to order the needed supplies. Be ready for the first sap run, because it is higher in sugar content and makes the top-quality syrup, urges Bell. U. S. weather men will be coming their Michigan and national networks in East Lansing to shoot the "sap weather" information out over the college radio station, WKAR, as soon as possible.

Good that farmers can substitute better chore routines for extra time and labor in the production of higher-quality milk will be discussed by Donald L. Murray, another dairy specialist.

A motion picture, "Science of Milk Production," will be shown. Many farmers are expected to bring their wives, sons and hired men to the meetings.

Other dairy specialists who will participate include Lawrence A. Johnson and James G. Hays. Agricultural agents are planning program details.

## WELL-FINISHED CATTLE COMMAND TOP SALE PRICE

The top sale dollars always go for the well-finished animal—no matter what the beef market trend, advises George A. Brannan, in charge of beef cattle at Michigan State College. Feeders rushing steers to market without proper finish are cheating themselves. If they sell for fear of a market drop, they lose money by forcing their steers into a lower grade, he explains, and at the same time they help depress the market. He cautions, however, that it does not pay to hold steers from sale when they are finished for their grade.

A downward trend in the beef market generally makes a bigger difference between high-grade and low-grade steers and recent cuts have hit the lower grades hardest. This situation probably will continue until the end of the big movement of grass-fed animals and then lower grades should pick up. From now until spring, there doubtless will be the usual lowering in prices for the higher grades—with more winter-fed beef cattle, with more finish, arriving.

It always pays to put a finish on steers.

## Farmers' Week Visitor Lays State Progress

Future of the livestock industry, already second largest in the nation, and expanding to feed the booming populations of America and the world, depends upon such plans as those being studied for an Annual Industries building at Michigan State College. This view was presented during Farmers' Week at the college by Dean Emeritus H. H. Kildee of the Iowa State College agriculture division.

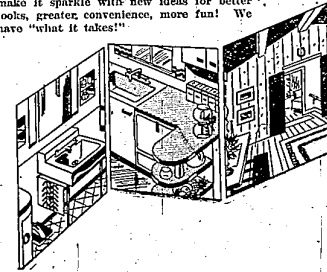
Tipping his hat to MSC—oldest of the land-grant agricultural institutions in the United States—he hoped the Michigan legislature would see a need for the building: "Surely the descendants and successors of the far-sighted citizens who created the first college of agriculture in the United States will provide the physical facilities that are of such great economic, nutritional and health significance," said the nationally-known livestock authority and judge.

## Profitable Beekeeping Requires Efficiency

The beekeeping business isn't all honey, and according to Jack Deyell, care should be used to keep costs at a minimum and efficiency at a maximum. Deyell is editor of the magazine, "Gleanings in Bee Culture" and a former beekeeper. He spoke at Michigan State College's Farmers' Week. Deyell cautioned against establishing too many outlying apiaries.

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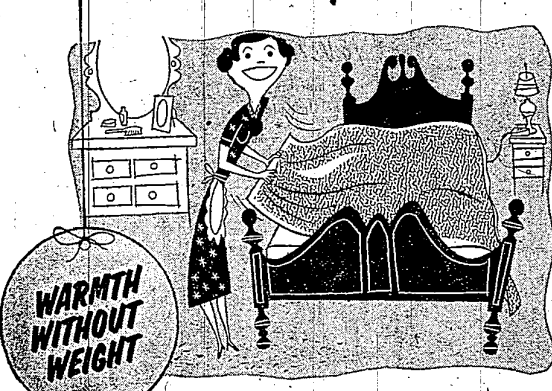
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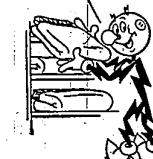
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