

March 11, 25 Programs Set For County Farmers

Two events coming up in March should be of great interest to all farmers in the county. At present plans are being made to hold a Soils - Crops Institute and a Livestock Feeders Institute during the month of March.

This would be the first attempt, other than local group meetings, at putting on events of these kinds in Oakland County and we hope that you will keep your eye out for announcements of actual dates and times. Tentatively, the date of March 11 has been picked for the Soils - Crops Institute and March 25 has been selected for the Livestock Institute.

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FARM NEWS

HIGHER OUTPUT OF COWS NOW PRICE PROBLEM

Causes for the current milk production surplus in Michigan and other states in the nation's "milk-bucket" area are very evident. But the cures are well hidden and rather complicated, Michigan State College agricultural economists find.

Gerald Quackenbush, dairy economist at MSC, points to increased production per cow and more cows in the herds as a prime reason for 9.5 per cent greater milk production now than a year ago in the north central states.

Behind this is the mild winter weather, more liberal feeding of concentrates and the failure to send the low-producing cows to slaughter. Poor cattle prices cause less culling.

A Flint dairy firm surveyed and found its producers with an average of 16 cows in the herd compared with 11 two years ago.

Southern dairymen are feeding 15 per cent more concentrates than a year ago and despite the drought cutting hay and pasture yields, herds in those areas are producing more than a year ago. That is true everywhere in the United States.

Farmers are encouraged to aspire for maximum production per animal. But MSC economists feel that culling out marginal producers is always a sound dairy management practice.

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No 'Scrapie' Has Hit State Sheep Since 1947, M.S.C. Specialists Say

Michigan lost some sheep in 1947 to "scrapie," the virus disease which has caused a flurry and a federal quarantine in California. A state quarantine was ordered in 1947 by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Called on by a practicing veterinarian for aid in a mysterious sheep disease, the State Department of Agriculture called Michigan State College animal pathologists into consultation. Infected sheep were examined in the MSC laboratories. They did not respond to treatment and in complete post-mortem examinations, clinical evidence was found for the diagnosis of scrapie.

Although the disease has been known since 1732 in England, no means has been found to combat it other than to quarantine affected areas and destroy infected sheep, according to Dr. Fredk. Thorp, Jr., MSC animal pathologist. He worked on the 1947 cases with Dr. A. W. Judd of the State Department of Agriculture and Mitchell L. Gray and Dr. Lloyd B. Sholl of the MSC animal pathology department. Dr. Chester F. Clark, now dean of the MSC school of veterinary medicine, was state veterinarian during the 1947 outbreak.

The disease is not known to affect men but is usually fatal to sheep, even though it may take a period of weeks, months or even years to run its course. Early symptoms are hard to spot. As the disease develops, sheep show signs of restlessness, become itchy enough to rub wool off and may bite their leg and cause bleeding. They lose appetite, weight and strength and go into convulsions and complete breakdown.

The Michigan infection may have come from either Canada or England, as sheep in the infected

TWO DAYS LEFT FOR MICH. FARMERS TO JOIN PROGRAM

Southern Michigan farmers may apply until the end of February for spring plantings under the conservation department's farm game habitat improvement program.

Under the program, nearly 2,700 cooperators in southern Michigan are working to increase small game food and cover supplies on their farms.

The department supplies seedlings free of charge along with a plan for planting, drawn up by game specialists who visit the farm. In turn, the farmer agrees to plant the seedlings and care for them for a period of ten years.

But wildlife isn't the only winner under this plan. Living fences of multiflorous rose, once developed, deny passages of cattle, need little attention and replace the costly post-and-rail wire fences. Other plantings slow erosion.

More than five million plantings have been made since the program started five years ago. Types include red, white and jack pine, cornberry, sweet clover, Reed canary grass, bittersweet, and a number of others.

A post card to the game division, Lansing, will start the farm applicant on the program. Most funds for the work are provided through the Pittman - Robertson act, a federal tax on hunting equipment sold in Michigan.

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Oakland County Farms Make Outstanding Gains

Oakland County dairy farms number among the 79 in the state who made outstanding production records with their dairy cattle. In fact, Lakefield Farms of Clarkston topped the state with a five-year butterfat average with registered Holsteins of 348 pounds of fat. This is indeed exceptional when you think that this record was made on an average of 46 cows milked.

Coming in eleven out of the 79, the Walter Oliver Farm of Pontiac was still in the 500 pound class having a five-year average of 504.8 pounds of butterfat on their herd of 16 registered and grade Holsteins.

Fly-Up Farms of Birmingham, the only other farm from Oakland County to come in this select group, averaged 484.3 pounds of butterfat with their herd of registered Holsteins averaging to milk 45 cows per day.

These three Oakland County farms are now members of the highly exclusive "400 pound butterfat club." Michigan State College Dairy Department, using the DHA records, tabulates the production records for dairy herds in the state to determine the membership of the 400 pound butterfat club.

Michigan boasts the largest white pine reported in the nation. The massive tree, nearly three feet in diameter at breast height, with a crown spread of 32 feet and total height of 65 feet, stands northeast of Ontonagon in Baraga state forest, conservation officials report.

Balanced rations, dry bedding, plenty of water and barnyard sanitation are your best ways to fight bor "flu", remind Michigan State College swine specialists.

Top navy bean soup with crotons rolled at the last minute in grated cheese.



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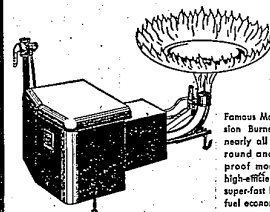
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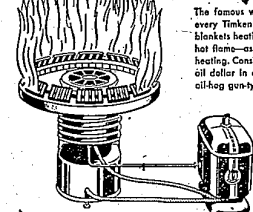
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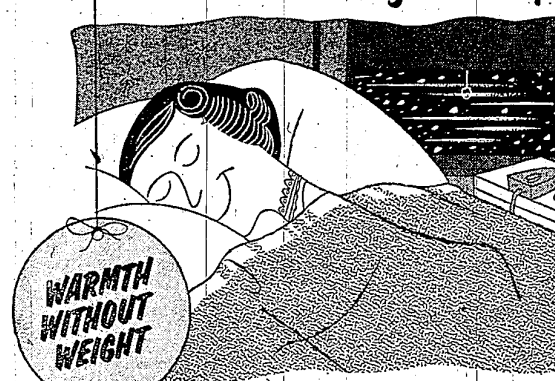
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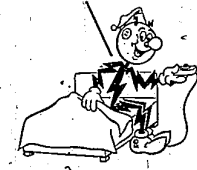
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