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FARM NEWS

STATE DEPARTMENTS ARE COOPERATING IN AERIAL SURVEY

The conservation department and the U. S. Department of Agriculture are cooperating in an aerial survey of the entire state, a project started last year. Department foresters, game men and law officers will use the maps to eliminate much costly detail work now necessarily done in the field. Most of the northern lower peninsula was done last year. Only Charlevoix and part of Antrim Counties remain to be done this year. Most work this year will be done in the upper peninsula, and Charlevoix and part of Antrim Counties remain to be done this year. The Department of Agriculture photographed the lower peninsula in 1950, but conservation department workers are concentrating on the two northern regions, where state ownership is more extensive.

Custom Rates Now Available

An extension folder giving the rates farmers expect to charge for custom work is out of the press and available at the offices of county agricultural agents and at Michigan State College. Authored by Karl A. Vary of MSC's agricultural economics department, the folder is the result of information from 196 farmers in all parts of Michigan. The publication is called "Custom Work in Michigan, 1952 and 1953". Vary noted that custom rates for most farm jobs this year will be about what they were in 1952. He said that the last survey of custom rates — in 1950 — showed them to be slightly lower on many jobs than the 1952 average. The jobs included field churning, baling, cutting grain, cutting corn, loading and spreading manure, plowing hay, plowing meadow, dozing, filling, burning wood and farm trucking. But, he reported, most farmers said they expected to charge the same custom rate in 1953 as last year. Field churning, for example, will range from \$10 to \$12 per acre and baling will be 12 to 14 cents a bale. Some of the other rates staying at about the same price included plowing, \$4 per acre; disk and dragging, from \$1 to \$1.50 per acre; combining and corn picking, about \$5 per acre.

ADVISE CAUTION WHEN SPRAYING WITH WEED KILLERS

Many lawns at this time of the year take on a golden color because of the many dandelions. A person traveling through the state from another country, where they do not have dandelions, might consider this a beautiful scene; as we would if traveling in Europe and viewed their poppy fields, which to them are weeds. To most of us, dandelions in the lawn are weeds which we wish to get rid of. One method is to chop them out. This is all right if you wish the lawn to be a green grass. However, this method only multiplies your trouble because when you cut off one dandelion several will grow from its broken root. A more sure method is to use the dandelion with a weed killer, such as 2, 4-D. This is absorbed into the plant by the leaves and kills the entire plant, thus no new plant can come up from the root. Caution must be exercised in using 2, 4-D in that none of the material drips on ornamentals or other flowers as they will become damaged. Sprayers that are used for spraying 2, 4-D should not be used for spraying insecticides on vegetables, as it is very difficult to get all of the material out of the sprayer and it takes so little to do damage to susceptible crops, such as tomatoes and grapes. This is the best time of the year to apply weed control because the plants are growing vigorously and are at their most tender stage and will kill more easily than at any other time. The typical beaver colony consists of an individual family, including two parents, yearlings born the previous year and kits of the current year.

PAVE WATERWAYS WITH GRASS MIX, SAYS AGENT ALCHIN

It's a good time to start paving your waterways with grass while waiting in your spring crops. Small, short-grown, or gullies, can be smoothed out with ordinary farm equipment — plowing in and disking. In fields of small grains, waterways can be seeded to perennial grasses along with the grain crop. Seed a simple mixture — two or more grasses, or one grass with a companion crop. Legumes usually weaken the soil. Use two to three times the seed ordinarily used for meadow seedings. A mixture of ten pounds of smooth brome, three pounds of ryegrass, five pounds of Kentucky bluegrass and two pounds of reedtop is most popular. Another mixture, for high organic soils, is ten pounds of brome, ten pounds of bluegrass and five of domestic ryegrass. On droughty sands and on soils that are low in organic matter, use 15 pounds of Chewings fescue per acre with a companion, such as domestic ryegrass, at a five-pound rate. Cornfield waterways can be broadened with three or four bushels of corn per acre this spring, followed by late summer grass seeding in the muck of the disked-in corn. This corn-cover method can be used in grain fields this spring to hold steep sloped waterways for late summer grass seeding. Manure and fertilizer will help the seedings fit a nice paved waterway by grass. "Pave Your Waterway With Grass", prepared by the State Soil Conservation Committee, the Michigan State College Cooperative Extension Service, and the S. Soil Conservation Service, is available at the office of the County Agricultural Agent.

Offer New Book On Michigan Soil

Contributing to a better understanding of the natural character of the land surface of Michigan is the purpose of a book authored by a Michigan State College soil scientist. The book, "Soils and Land of Michigan", symbolizes the life work of Michigan's foremost student of soil types and land use, stated Prof. J. O. Veatch. The book and soil association map in colors were published by the Michigan State College Press. Designed to possess appeal for persons of all occupations, it will be of special interest to students and teachers of agriculture, builders, realtors, lawyers, engineers and to many farmers. Embodied in the volume and the map is a summarization of the surveys and other information on Michigan soils compiled by research workers of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and other state and federal agencies. Included also are Veatch's field observations and evaluations gained by his more than 30 years' association with the soil science department of MSC and the agricultural experiment station.

John Clapperton Sells Insurance

DOWNWARD TREND NOTED

Since 1935, the number of forest fires each year has ranged from 969 in 1943 to 4,272 in 1933. Although the number of fires varies widely from year to year depending on weather conditions, the over-all trend has been downward since conservation department protection was organized.



FOR HOME OR BUSINESS NEEDS
LOOK IN THE
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One remarkable accomplishment of the buffle-headed duck is his ability to dive quickly and emerge in full flight; in the days of slow burning powder, it was this "dive" at the flash of the gun and thereby avoid the shot. Many animal populations fluctuate in fairly regular cycles of abundance and scarcity. The ruffed grouse and the snowshoe hare are examples of this, each going through a complete cycle about every ten years.

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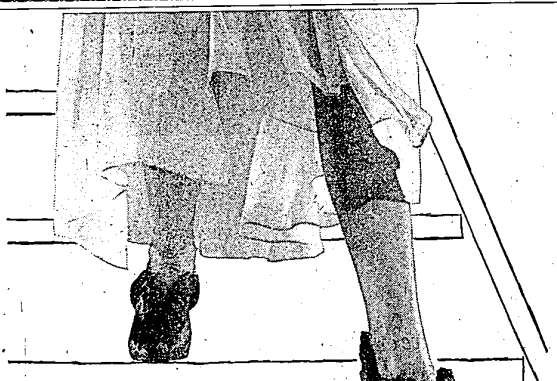
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