

Advises Planting Wheat After Fly-Free Date

By ED ALCHIN
County Agricultural Agent

According to Michigan State College Entomologist Roy James, the Hessian fly will be through laying his eggs by September 10 this year, and that is the date that it will be safe to plant wheat. Some farmers have not been paying enough attention to this

date with the result that Mr. James reports a great increase in the number of Hessian flies ready to lay eggs this year. Mr. James states that for a year or two farmers might get away with planting ahead of the fly-free date because of low numbers of Hessian flies.

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CRIBBING CORN HALF AS MOIST AS FOR SILO

Silage corn and cribbing corn are only a few hot days apart, but the moisture difference is an important one, stresses R. O. Rossman, corn researcher in the Michigan State College farm crops department.

For the best quality corn silage, corn should be cut when the grain is in the hard dough stage, when most of the kernels have started to dent. At this stage, Rossman explains, the ears will contain 45 to 50 per cent moisture and the fodder will have 75 to 80 per cent moisture.

Corn cut for silage at this stage will have a high percentage of grain, he advises, and still have sufficient moisture for the preservation of the silage.

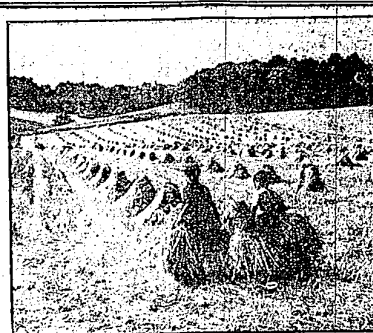
Corn is usually mature or "rim" about seven weeks after the plants have sown and when the ears have dried on the plants to about 35 per cent moisture, notes the MSC corn specialist.

Corn is mature when the kernels reach their maximum dry weight, Rossman states, but it is not ready to harvest for cribbing, however, until the moisture has dropped to about 25 per cent.

High-moisture corn is likely to spoil in the crib, he warns, and it will be slower, therefore, in feed value.

Where dryers are available, the corn harvest can be started any time after the corn has reached maturity, he adds.

FARM NEWS



EARLY HARVEST IN BRITAIN — With the rolling English countryside in the background, two young boys help in the early wheat harvest. This scene is on the Fox Court Farm, near Henley-on-Thames, England.

Field Days Emphasize Corn Yield

To Feature 8 - 24,000 Big Plants Per Acre

Big yields, not big "show ears" will be seen in Michigan's first series of Corn Field Days, starting next week, and all signs point to a bumper state crop to help at least.

The all-day programs, modeled after a "pilot" corn field day last year in Ingham County, were arranged by a Michigan State College Extension Services committee. Members are James A. Porter and Paul J. Reed, soil scientists, Robert G. White, agricultural engineer, and Milton Erdmann and Layton V. Nelson of the farm crops department.

Southeastern Michigan Corn Field Day will be Thursday, September 17, at the Lloyd Ruessink farm, about five miles northwest of Adrian.

Southwestern Michigan Corn Field Day will be on Tuesday, September 22, at the L. C. Heil farm, about a mile southwest of Three Rivers.

Visitors will see corn populations ranging from 8,000 to 24,000 plants per acre — showing that the big yields come from heavy plantings and half-pound ears; rows as far apart as 72 inches to aid the growth of seedlings of sweet clover and rye grass; chemical weed control; nitrogen side-dressing including liquids; corn grades and popcorn; the tools needed and the advantages of minimum tillage; corn diseases and insects; and the in-breeding, crossing and other work in hybrid corn development.

Weather Reduces Fire Hazard In State Forests

Damp weather is helping reduce the fire hazard on Michigan's forest and grass lands this year, the conservation department reports. To date, 5,100 acres have been damaged; last year to this date, more than 5,300 acres had suffered from fires.

WARN FARMERS TO CONTINUE PARASITE PROGRAM

Sheep parasites don't take vacations, so farmers should be particularly careful in continuing a parasite control program. Phenothiazine and trace mineral salt are still the best set for parasite control. Use at the rate of one pound of phenothiazine to twelve pounds of trace mineral salt. This mixture should be fed in a box protected from the weather.

Alfalfa seedlings this fall should be in by this time. If you do not have your fall seedlings of alfalfa established as yet, it might be wise to wait until spring. The reason for this recommendation is that young seedlings may start and then early frost cause dormancy to develop before root storage of food material has taken place. This will result in injury and killing of seedlings during the winter months.

This is the last call for soil testing for wheat for the 1954 season. The Oakland County Extension Service laboratory has been running full blast for the past two weeks. Don't wait until the day before you want to plant your wheat, since it takes two to three days to run your samples.

FARM CALENDAR

September 9 - 10, Michigan Hatchery Conference at MSC.

September 11 - 12, Upper Peninsula Dairy Conference at Chatham.

September 13 - 16, National Association of Artificial Breeders, Kellogg Center, MSC.

September 13 - 14, Mid year meeting, State Association of Soil Conservation Districts at St. Ignace.

September 14 - 18, Blasting Course at MSC.

September 15 - 18, National Hayrow Show at Austin, Minnesota.

September 15, Livestock Marketing Association of Michigan Annual Meeting at MSC.

September 17, Southeastern Michigan Corn Field Day, Lloyd Ruessink farm, Adrian.

In years of large feed crop production, like 1953 promises to be, it usually doesn't pay to wait until late November or December to buy feeder cattle, according to MSU agricultural economists. They advise watching cattle markets closely for erratic fluctuations during the next 90 days.

Output Boost Planned By Good Farmers

Best Managed Farms Watch Barn, Culling

Good Michigan farmers are not just standing still and taking the cost — price squeeze on the chin. They — especially the smaller operators — are making plans to increase output by making their farming operations more efficient. That's the report of Michigan State College agricultural economists who have attended many of the farm management tours held throughout the state this summer.

Warren H. Vincent of the agricultural economics department cites the case of Walter Miller in Allegan County who works 80 acres and keeps 11 cows. He has a large-housing type of barn which allows him to care for 20 to 25 cows with a minimum of labor. His plans are to intensify his pasture and hay program and keep as many cows as his roughage supply will permit.

Another case is Jarvis Van Rhee near Allegan. He is paying closer attention to soil conditions on his 80 acres and using lots of fertilizer in order to boost crop yields. Although his crop yields are 30 per cent higher than the average for his area, he thinks there is room for improvement. He has increased the butterfat average of his cows from 322 pounds two years ago to an estimated 470 this year. Van Rhee plans to increase the butterfat production per cow still more — to between 500 and 550 pounds. He is doing it by equipping good breeding, culling out the lowest producers and feeding cows according to their butterfat production.

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