

# Lake Theatre

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Technicolor

"THE ALL AMERICAN"

Sun, Mon, Tues., December 6, 7, 8  
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# FARM NEWS

## FARM GROUP ELECTS BALL AS PRESIDENT

A division head in the Michigan Department of Agriculture, B. Dale Ball, was honored recently by the National Association of Institutional Farm Supervisors by being elected its president at a meeting held at Columbus, Ohio.

Mr. Ball is co-ordinator of institutional farms and herds in Michigan. Under Mr. Ball's direction are 15 state institutional farms. These yield products worth more than 2 million dollars at less than wholesale prices. Land farmed exceeds 20,000 acres.

On Michigan's institutional farms there are 2,400 head of registered Holstein cattle which give 16 million pounds of milk a year. The herd average is 14,068 pounds of milk per cow. Surplus milk from these herds are sold at public auction and are in demand by dairymen.

Also raised on Michigan's institutional farms are 6,000 swine and poultry for meat. The number of laying hens total 9,500. Poultry and vegetable crops raised are valued at \$240,000 a year.

All of the products from the state's farms, supervised by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, are consumed at these and other state institutions. This cuts down the board bill that taxpayers otherwise would have to pay. None of the products are sold on the open market in competition with privately raised farm products, Mr. Ball said.

Dairymen who feed the best quality roughage can have \$10 to \$65 greater returns per cow over feed costs than farmers who feed poor roughages.

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**ISRAEL'S VIRGINIA TOBACCO** — This elderly farmer, of Tzora, Israel, displays some of his harvest of Virginia tobacco, regarded as much superior to the tobacco previously grown in that country. Israel bonds financed the Virginia tobacco-growing experiment, and the first crop of the leaf yielded 12 1/2 tons.

## PLAN TO PILE COMPOST NOW FOR FALL OF '54

If you are like most amateurs who "shut pre-planning, your ground maintenance jobs may hit you like "chain reaction." sympathizes Joseph T. Cox, Michigan State College extension landscape specialist.

You will need humus material, and it will be all around you — but only in the form of leaves and garden debris. Before you can start mulching plants for the winter, you'll find a few jobs to be done — and one job calls for another.

It may occur to you, suggests Cox, that now is the time to prepare for next year's "chain of events."

Tree leaves have made their journey to the ground and can now be hauled to the compost pile with assurance they will smother your lawn grass. You are finishing this job once and for all — unless your indifferent neighbor has been careless in his leaf collecting.

If your planning is up to par, the compost heap can stop the endless task of moving plant debris from place to place next spring. Locate the humus factory near the vegetable garden for convenience. It will be inconspicuous, handy to receive garden debris, topsoil and fertilizer to aid decomposition. Water will be handy for an occasional soaking — and if the compost pile sides are built to form a rim they will catch and hold snow and rain. A layer of old plants — with roots on for all — unless your indifferent neighbor has been careless in his leaf collecting.

In about a year, the material will be fully disintegrated and ready to use.

Young farmers getting started are advised by Michigan State College agricultural economists that any farm short on land, livestock, machinery and credit will have a rough time in the period ahead.

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## Short Course Set For Muck Farmers

A four-week short course for muck farmers is being planned at Michigan State College during January.

Robert E. Lucas, extension muck crop specialist, reports that the course will include instruction in plant diseases, plant insects, packaging and marketing, farm accounting, farm machinery and soil management. Enrollment will begin January 11 and classes will end on February 2. More information is available by writing to the short course director, School of Agriculture, Michigan State College.

## Milk Surplus Could Be Wiped Out Easily

The dairy industry could easily eliminate the nation's 1953 overproduction of milk by getting the country's adult population to increase their milk consumption by one-fourth of a glass a day.

That's the opinion of J. A. Meiser of Michigan State College's dairy department. He points out that adults' consumption of milk is considerably below recommendations by nutritionists.

Latest statistics compiled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture show the per capita consumption of fluid milk by farm people to be about one pint a day — or nine percent of the total U. S. production.

Per capita consumption of fluid milk and cream for the urban population was approximately nine-tenths of a pint per day — or 40 per cent of the total production.

## Limestone Important In Layers' Ration

Feeding oyster shells or ground limestone is important for young layers and the material should be placed where hens have easy access to it, says J. M. Moore, extension poultryman at Michigan State College.

He suggests scattering oyster shells on top of the mash hopper as the best way to increase consumption of the material. He points out that a hen laying 200 eggs a year needs about three pounds of oyster shells or ground limestone during that period.

Research shows that hens do not store up a reserve supply of lime in their bodies. Hens manufacture egg shells from the limestone they ate yesterday. Lack of egg shell making material can be a source of trouble, the poultryman notes.

## for FAST, ECONOMICAL GAINS On Rabbit Fryers, feed Albers Rabbit Rations

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