

# FARM NEWS

## Aldrin Stops Worms New Experiments Show

Wireworms, long a headache for Michigan potato growers, now can be controlled with aldrin, experiments at Michigan State College show.

Tests by MSC entomologists indicate that two to three pounds of the 25 per cent aldrin will do the job if it is applied to the soil before planting potatoes. An organic soil — muck — would require more of the chemical — three pounds compared to two pounds for a mineral soil.

The use of aldrin has not affected the flavor of potatoes in the MSC tests and the chemical has been approved by the federal government for use in controlling wireworms.

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## BETTER SEED FOR FARMERS, INDUSTRY AIM

Seedmen interested in spreading crop and allied research benefits to Michigan farms through better seed use met December 8 and 9 at Michigan State College for the Michigan Seed Producers and Dealers Conference.

The Michigan Crop Improvement association, the Michigan Seed Dealers association, the Michigan Farm Bureau seedmen and the Michigan Foundation Seed association are co-sponsors with the college.

Dealer and grower cooperation was outlined by Al Ambrosio, Michigan State Seed Company of Grand Ledge, and H. Alfred Sturm of Pigeon, MICA vice-president, on the opening morning program. Dr. Lloyd M. Turk, director of Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, outlined the need for all-around seed cooperation.

J. R. Huey, vice-president of American Seed Trade association, Granville, Illinois, spoke the afternoon of December 8 and there was a joint banquet of the various groups in the evening. Research material was presented December 9 by MSC researchers and the group toured the farm crops laboratory, saw a film on American seed production and heard a talk about crop allotments by Clarence Prentice, state Production and Marketing administrator. A special program was arranged for potato growers.

Farmers now are getting 45 cents of the consumers' dollar when you figure all foods together. MSC economists point out. The other 55 cents goes for processing, packaging, transportation and retailing.



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**CAG RUNS INTO SNAG**—Pink Williams of Caddo, Okla., smiles over a stack of requests for the gag post cards he drew up inviting cattlemen who voted for President Eisenhower to attend a picnic "the day after you are foreclosed." Williams said he mailed more than 300,000 of the cards before the Post Office Department restricted his mailing privileges.

## NEW TOMATO YIELDS HIGH, FRUIT FIRM

A new greenhouse tomato hybrid tested at Michigan State College shows higher yields, more uniformity and firmness than other "inside" varieties. The new hybrid is a cross of a vigorous strain of Michigan State Forcing and Ohio WR-3 Globe. It was developed by John and Peter Gortsema, greenhouse tomato growers at Grand Rapids. The seed has been increased to the extent that several growers in the Grand Rapids area are producing the hybrid exclusively.

Dr. S. H. Wittwer of the MSC horticulture department, who did the testing work, says that his data suggests that the hybrid may be rather widely adapted to greenhouse culture.

Full yields in the tests show that the Michigan - Ohio hybrid has outyielded the Spartan hybrid — one of the better yielders — by one to two pounds per vine. Spring yield, however, has been comparable. Wittwer reports that disease resistance of the Michigan - Ohio hybrid has not been evaluated thoroughly. But observations in commercial greenhouses suggest a high resistance to the Fusarium wilt organism. The uniformity and firmness of the fruit are the two qualities that make the hybrid outstanding, according to Dr. Wittwer.

## FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 10, 11, Landscape Gardeners Conference at Michigan State College.  
December 12, Michigan Beekeepers Association at Michigan State College.  
December 14 - 18, American Farm Bureau Federation, Chicago.  
December 15, 16, Michigan Lime and Fertilizer Conference at Michigan State College.  
December 16, Wood Deterioration Conference, Michigan State College.

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## Fruit Trees Need Rodent Control

Meadow mice are going to be more of a threat to your fruit trees this winter than usual, and they can cause enormous damage if you don't set up some protection against them.

That's the word from C. A. Langer, Michigan State College horticulturist. Langer says mice gnaw tree bark and they can kill a small tree and cause severe injury to a large one.

Do the protection job before snowfall if possible, he advises. Since field mice move about in runways beneath mulch or grass, you can bait the passages and poison the pests.

He recommends strychnine or zinc-phosphide treated apple slices for the bait. A one-ounce can of zinc-phosphide powder will treat about 20 quarts of apple slices. He suggests cutting a two-inch apple into 12 slices to make the bait large enough. Sprinkle the powder on the slices until they have a gray color and place one slice in each fresh runway. You will need about two quarts of the slices per acre. The bait material can be ordered from the Grand Rapids Growers' Association.

As an extra precaution, Langer recommends placing a six-inch pile of pen gravel around each tree trunk. Or you can use heavy gauge hardware cloth around the trunk with the base of the cloth set in the ground. And cut the grass and high weeds in a two-foot area around the trunk.

## Feeding Outlook: Lambs Profitable

Lamb feeding will be profitable this winter, Michigan State College agricultural economists say. They point out that prices of feeder lambs are low enough for positive margins between fat lambs and feeders.

Wool prices in 1954 will average about the same as this year's the economists add. Wool prices will be determined mainly by support prices.

John Clappison Sells Insurance

## Wood Users To Meet Dec. 16

Termites, powder post beetles, off-color spellers and out-and-out rotters all will get a cool reception Wednesday, December 16, at Michigan State College's Kellogg Center. Lumber dealers and building contractors will spearhead the reception committee.

The date has been set for the Wood Deterioration Conference, sponsored by the MSC department of forest products — interested in building up with wood, not tearing down.

The morning session will include "My Sad Experience with Insect Damaged Lumber" by Norris E. Smith, Lansing wholesale lumber dealer; "Insects in Lumber and their control" by Dr. H. J. MacAloney of the U. S. forest insect laboratory at Milwaukee, and "Causes and Control of Decay and Stain" by Dr. Ralph Lindgren of the U. S. forest products laboratory at Madison, Wisconsin.

"Lumber Grading Procedures — Insects, Stain and Decay" will be

discussed Wednesday afternoon by Charles W. Hibbert of Portland, Oregon, supervisor of the west coast bureau of lumber grades and inspection. A panel discussion on the entire conference will follow with Alfred Raven, chief architect for the federal housing administration at Grand Rapids, and G. G. Garlick, of Protection Products company at Kalamazoo.

Dr. A. J. Panshin, head of the MSC forest products department, will be moderator.

Milk prices during 1954 will depend upon the level at which they are supported by government purchases. If support prices are maintained at 90 per cent of parity, there will be little price change.



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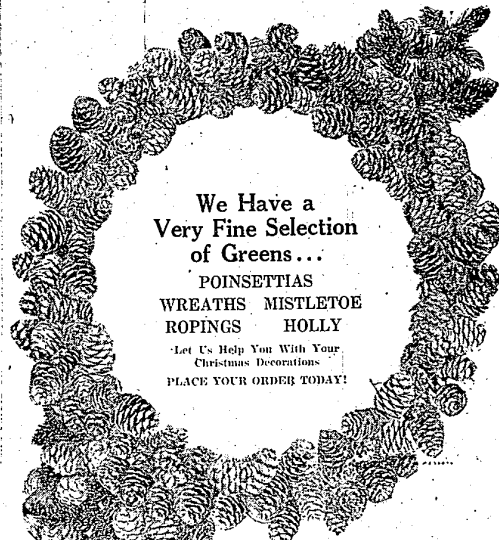
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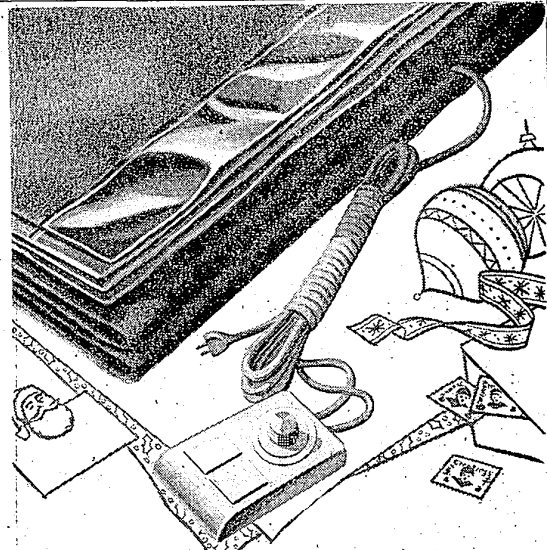
ANSWERS  
YOUR QUESTIONS

Q. Breathing is difficult for my birds. What shall I do?

A. When upper respiratory passages become clogged, birds need Dr. Salsbury's Can-Pho-Sal. It helps loosen mucus in nostrils and throat and eases bird's breathing. Can-Pho-Sal is an inhalant and nasal wash for poultry. Spray or vaporize Can-Pho-Sal in poultry house several times daily. Use nasal wash by means of a syringe.

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