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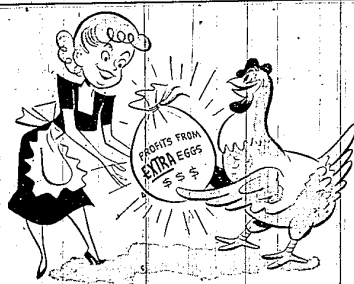
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AGENT ALCHIN
ADVISES REVIEW
OF TAX SUMMARY

Now that farm folks have completed their year's summary for income tax purposes, it is a good time to look back on the year to see just what has been done that might be improved to make a little better net profit in 1954.

Economists predict that 1954 will be another tight year for farmers with continuing losses, with some decline along with costs holding about the same. This means that to keep up net profit the good manager will look to a way that he can cut his costs and improve his income.

Some questions the farmer may ask himself that will be of help are:

1. Am I marketing my products at the best time for best prices?

2. Am I following breeding programs on livestock so that market prices are at high levels when it is time to dispose of them?

3. Am I getting the best production per unit or acre from my livestock and crops?

4. How can I best invest my money to realize the most net profit during the coming year?

5. From time to time we attempt to answer some of these questions. They come up. Right now one is to plan for the year ahead.

It is time to think about seeds and fertilizer for planting spring crops.

Advise Saving Money By Relinquishing Tires

Your worn but sound tractor tires can be relinquished. At least that's one saving in the farm cost-price squeeze, suggests Robert G. White, executive agricultural engineer at Michigan State College.

Relinquishing consists of rubber welding a new set of cold rubber lugs on those of a worn tire.

If your old tire is sound, White says, the relinquishing process will give you a revitalized tire at less cost than a new one. The U. S. Department of Agriculture's tillage laboratory estimates the process will cost about half the price of a new tire.

The laboratory insists that the tire will give good service if the relinquishing job is done properly.

The relinquished tire will be comparable to new or recapped tires for drawbar pull. White predicts, but in his opinion the relinquished tires may wear faster.

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Treat Tractor
Like Old Dobbin

Remember that your modern work horse — like old Dobbin — needs daily grooming if you want to avoid grief from a stalled machine.

That's the word from agricultural engineers at Michigan State College. Here are some hints they give to avoid tractor complaints.

Wipe off ignition cables, coil, distributor and spark plug insulators every day or two. Grease attracts dust, and damp dust becomes a moist wick causing the high voltage to leak or short circuit and engines to miss, stall or fail to start.

To do a good cleaning job, moisten a rag with solvent. It works with the truck and family car, too.

Keep tabs on hours you operate the tractor. Spark plugs should be cleaned, adjusted and checked every 100 hours — that's equal to 4,000 to 5,000 miles on your car. Dirty or fouled plugs mean wasted fuel, power loss and frequent overheating.

Keep up the water level of the battery and make sure the holes in the vent plugs are not clogged with dust — pent-up gas pressure can split cell casings.

Make checking the oil level and lubrication daily habits. For every ten hours of operation, there are vital points — king pins, tie rod ends, etc. that need two strokes of the grease gun.

Overheating, which can result in an expensive job, has many causes. But first check the fan belt — it may be loose and slipping. An insect-clogged radiator can't either cause, also make sure you're not overloading the engine with too heavy a task too long.

FRUIT GROWERS
USE NEW BUDWOOD
IN TREE GRAFTS

A method for certifying budwood used in fruit tree grafts as being free of virus disease has been developed by Michigan State College and the Michigan Department of Agriculture. It is reported by nurserymen to be of immeasurable value to nurserymen and buyers of cherry and peach trees.

For the past two years all of the Montmorency tart cherry trees grown in Michigan were propagated from certified budwood, and today 95 per cent of all of the stonefruit nursery stock in the state is grown under Michigan's new program.

Practically all of Michigan's established nurserymen are using the system of budwood certification. It was worked out by Donald Catton, of the College, and C. A. Boyer, of the Department's Bureau of Plant Industry, whose assistant, Dean A. Lovitt, is now in charge. Michigan is the first state to have this program which assures trees to be virus-free. A fruit tree infected with virus is unthrifty and less productive.

This year about 300,000 cherry trees and 250,000 peach trees will be offered from budwood certified stock by Michigan nurserymen.

The value of budwood certification to the state's important fruit industry was pointed out by one nurseryman, Clifford Emlong, of Stevensville, who said, "Budwood certification has made a terrific difference in tree sizes in the nursery and has resulted in a much better tree for the grower. Most growers won't plant anything but virus-free certified trees. The program has resulted in trees of unsurpassed quality."

In cherries, budwood is grafted onto peach stocks. If there is virus in the budwood, the peach tree shows it the following summer. If not, the source of the cherry budwood is suitable for grafting onto cherry stocks.

With peaches — and the peach tree is subject to several virus diseases — the system is different. Selected budwood is immersed for five minutes in water of 122 degrees. This apparently destroys any virus that might be present in the budwood. Plums are singularly free of virus diseases, according to Mr. Lovitt.

Other states are beginning to adopt this Michigan-developed program.

Issue Drilling Permit
For Oil Well In County

Eighteen drilling permits were issued to gas and oil producers last week, about average for a single winter week, the conservation department reports.

The permits authorize drilling in twelve counties. Three wells will be drilled in Mason County, two in Allegan and two in Ogemaw. The remainder are distributed one to each of the following counties: Arenac, Wayne, Jackson, Muskegon, Oakland, Genesee, Van Buren, Clare and Isabella.

Quality Chicks Save
Money In Long Run

Cheap chicks may cost you a lot of money. Quality birds may cost you more at the start but you'll be taking in profits instead of paying out money.

That's the advice of Hans H. Haugard, assistant county agricultural agent. Chick quality, he points out, is measured in terms of low death rate, efficient use of feed, rapid growth, fast and complete feathering and uniform size.

In a laying flock, whether you are getting market eggs or hatchling eggs, you want good production.

Buying from hatcheries that carry on a good pullover testing program helps to insure healthy chicks, the county agent emphasizes. Hatcheries and poultry breeders participating in the National Poultry Improvement Plan must meet prescribed standards of pullover testing as well as sanitation.

The pullover status of any hatchery may be obtained by writing Howard Zindel, head of Michigan State College's poultry department. He administers the NPIP in Michigan.

FARM CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

February 15 - 18, Annual Sheep Shearing School, Livestock Pavilion, MSC.

February 15 - 18, Veterans' Agriculture Teachers Conference, Michigan State College.

February 16 - 18, Michigan Allied Dairy annual meeting, Sheraton-Cadillac, Detroit.

February 19, Michigan Dried Gilt Sale, Livestock Pavilion, Michigan State College.

Bituminous coal exists in diverse varieties, but generally is 15 to 30% fixed carbon and 45 to 40% volatile matter.

Extend Time
On ACP Program

Additional time has been approved by the Department of Agriculture for farmers to enroll in the 1954 Agricultural Conservation Program, according to Walter R. Cook, office manager of the Grand County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee. The enrollment period has been extended to March 1.

Any farmer wishing to participate in the cost-sharing ACP program should contact the county office at 18 South Perry Street, 320 Hubbard Building, Pontiac, or his local township committee man.

Conservation practices that are eligible for cost-sharing are the application of liming materials on fields where a soil test has been made and shows need of lime and where legumes and grasses will be sown in either 1954 or 1955.

Installation of tile and construction of open drainage ditches.

Sowing of legumes and/or grasses to be plowed under as green manure in 1955.

Establishment of soil waterways.

Tree planting for forestation or windbreak purposes.

Establishment of contour strip-cropping and field strip-cropping to protect soil from wind and water erosion and the establishment of a permanent cover of legumes and grasses on eroded, stony or low fertility land and in commercial orchards.

If the springs used annually by the Rochester Products Division of General Motors for the manufacture of automobile locks were laid end to end, they would cover a distance equivalent to 1,600 round trips up and down the Empire State Building.

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Thomas Alva Edison

FEBRUARY 11, 1847

February 11th is the 107th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Edison, founder of the electrical industry as we know it.

It's a rather special date in Michigan since it was here his family lived for many years; here that young Tom's inventive genius first began to emerge.

It's a rather special date at Detroit Edison, too, for our people believe in serving — and service was Thomas Edison's guiding principle. So strong were his feelings on the matter, so confident was he that widespread use of electricity could benefit mankind, that he began by selling lamp bulbs for 40¢ each — far below their manufacturing cost of

\$1.25! He could not be content until he made this strange, new force — electricity — available to those of both high and low station.

Today, electric service goes far beyond keeping rates low and extending lines to new customers. Our meaning of service is to make electricity uniformly dependable, and to provide those extra services which enable a customer to use electricity to his best advantage.

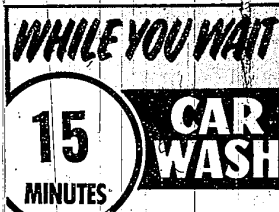
The Detroit Edison Company strives constantly to strengthen its service tradition. And this is a fitting time to re-dedicate ourselves to it; to resolve to serve our customers and our nation to the best of our ability.

Charles M. Brown, Chairman of the Board
Mabel C. Cislak, President

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