

## Corn Protein Boost Studied

Although the protein content of corn grain has decreased about one per cent during the past 20 years in most of the corn belt, there has been no general decrease in Michigan.

That's the word from E. C. Rossman, farm crops researcher, who spoke during the annual Farmers' Week program at Michigan State College. Rossman told the crowd that thicker planting of corn, which is being recommended in most areas, leads to a lower protein content in the grain unless more nitrogen fertilizer is used.

Pointing out the importance of corn protein, Rossman said that each one per cent increase in the content of the grain would be worth about \$4,500,000 annually. That's in terms of replacing soybean oil meal which averages about 45 per cent protein and costs \$97 per ton. And, he suggests, an increase of one per cent in protein would make a bushel of corn worth six cents more to livestock feeders in terms of protein supplement saved.

A boost in the protein content of corn would help cattle and sheep feeders since less protein supplement would be needed to balance the ration. Corn protein has to be supplemented with other protein for feeding swine and chickens. Recent feeding tests have shown, however, that high protein corn, when properly supplemented, can be fed to pigs with less supplement than average for low protein corn.

## DON'T SHOOT DOG SUSPECTED OF BEING RABBIT

Don't shoot that mad dog! Dr. William S. Preston, director of the University of Michigan's Pasteur Institute, warns that chances for diagnosing rabies are immeasurably greater if the dog is brought in alive.

If you have been bitten, or if you discover a mad dog on the loose in the neighborhood, don't obey your first impulse and start firing away at the animal. Call the police or humane society.

The situation is altered, of course, if the animal is attacking a victim viciously. In such a case, immediate destruction of the dog may be unavoidable.

Lab technicians have a better chance of discovering Negri bodies in an animal which has died of the disease than in one which has been killed before the disease takes its course. If Negri bodies are not found microscopically, a suspension of brain tissue is injected in mice. The mice then are observed. If rabies is present, it usually kills the mice in eight to 12 days after injection.

Negri bodies, named after the Italian physician, Adelphi Negri, are small structures resembling the presence of the rabies virus. They are found in the brain of laboratory observation gives everyone a break. If the suspected dog is shot before diagnosed as rabid, he may have been destroyed needlessly. And the victim may have undergone the strenuous Pasteur treatment needlessly.

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# FARM NEWS

## Plan To Promote Uses Of Forage

Michigan, where vacationers "rough it" every year, may have more livestock "roughing it" on better pastures in 1954. A dozen good reasons for more and better forage areas and uses are 12 Winter Grass Institutes, February 23 through March 11.

Farmers will join specialists from Michigan State College in passing along tips on forage. The institutes are arranged by host agricultural agents with aid of neighbor agents and farmer committees.

Program, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., will include movies, slides and reports of actual experiences with forage production and livestock use. Hay and silage samples will be judged.

The schedule, by host counties: Jackson, February 23, at Tompkins Township Hall, a half mile north of Tompkins; Kalamazoo, February 24, at county center building in Recreation Park, Kalamazoo; Newaygo, February 25, at community building Fremont; Grand, February 26, at Alma-Armory.

Monroe, March 1, at Veterans Memorial hall, on Dundee; Ashtabula, east edge of Dundee; Livingston, March 2, at 4-H Club building, Fowlerville fair grounds; Arenac, March 3, at Veterans Memorial building, Standish; Alpena, March 4, at Long Rapids Township hall, Long Rapids; Kalkaska, March 5, at Kalkaska high school gymnasium.

Washtenaw, March 9, at Pittsfield Grande hall, two miles south of University of Michigan stadium on Saline Road; Oakland, March 10, at Waterford community activities building, on Williams Lake Road a mile west of U.S. 16 and six miles north of Pontiac; Sanilac, March 11, at Peck high school gymnasium.

## FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 20, National Cherry Pie Baking Contest, Chicago.

February 20, Michigan Duroe Bed Gift Sale, Livestock Pavilion, MSC.

February 21-23, Michigan State Florist Association, Detroit.

February 22-24, National Association, Soil Conservation Districts, New Orleans.

February 22, Winter Grass Institute, Jackson County, Tompkins Township Hall.

February 24, Winter Grass Institute, Kalamazoo County, County Center Building, Kalamazoo.

February 24, Southeastern Michigan Horticultural Society, at Pontiac.

February 25, Winter Grass Institute, Newaygo County, Community Building, Fremont.

February 25, District Spring Meeting, Michigan State Horticultural Society, South Haven.

"Electric pig breeders are a good investment for cold weather, farrowing, Michigan State College agricultural economists say that with high early fall hog prices in prospect, farmers should get their equipment in shape to save every possible pig farrowed.



**HARBINGER OF SPRING**—Lambing on many farms in the Pacific Northwest started two weeks early this year, an indication of an early spring. Above, Wilma Starnes of Shedd, Ore., holds one of the 20 lambs born recently on the Starnes' farm. Pastures in the region are reported to be in good condition, also for so early in the season.

## VALUED SEED STORAGE/ BUILDING READY AT M. S. C.

Michigan State College's long-awaited foundation seed laboratory has been completed. The laboratory seed storage facility, 150 feet long by 50 feet wide, is located near the Mt. Hope and Beaumont Roads, site of the farm crops laboratory.

One section of the building is for the storing of foundation seed. Another section is a room for grain cleaning and treating equipment. Here, students taking MSC's elevator short course will receive part of their training.

The third section has facilities for storing the valuable seed of the college's plant breeders. In the farm crops department, the five acres has been provided for George Wenner, manager of the Michigan Foundation Seed association.

The structure's basement will be used as a storage for sugar beet and potato seed stock. The laboratory was constructed by a \$70,000 fund appropriated by the state legislature.

## Time To Use Lambing Tips

Sheepmen who have flocks lambing early should get ready now, advises Graydon Blank, Michigan State College extension sheep specialist.

Ewes that are not sheared before lambing should be waiting around the udder and rear quarters. This will make it much easier for lambs to get that all-important first drink of warm milk, explains Blank.

Lambing pens made from small boxes are important lamb savers, he notes, and a heat lamp is useful in a chilly barn. The lamp should be fastened securely, hang about 20 inches off the floor and barricaded to keep ewes out from under.

## Early Sap Run Most Profitable

Farmers who missed one-third of their maple syrup potential in 1953 by failing to tap in during February are keeping close tabs on any weather reports this year.

One-third of the 1953 production in central Michigan flowed during February, reports Putnam W. Robbins, Michigan State College forester and maple sap specialist. Owners of "sugar bushes" who were ready to follow the broadest and printed sap weather advice rushed in on this first and sweetest run.

Michigan's maple syrup crop has averaged over \$500,000 annually for the past 12 years, according to Robbins, and could reach the \$2,000,000 mark. Foresters working with the East Lansing branch of the U. S. Weather Bureau have forecast sap weather since 1942, he notes, and a 25,000-gallon increase in 1943 was predicted to weather reports over WICKAR, the college radio station.

In 1944, U. S. maple syrup production was above the ten-year average but Michigan's output was up 58,000 gallons or six times the average gain. This added \$200,000. Weather reports helped Michigan move up from fifth to fourth place in national production.

Last year, on February 19, weathermen and foresters forecast maple sap weather and tapping by noon of February 20 was advised. The flow on February 20 was the largest recorded on any day in 1952. Sap also flowed on February 21, again on February 24 to 27 and then closed down for 12 days, until March 11. The "early birds" got the third extra sap total.

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## NEW VARIETY MAY CONQUER POTATO WILT

The two new wilt diseases of potatoes that caused considerable loss last year may be stymied in the future with a variety that is resistant to their attack.

Michigan State College has a breeding project under way that is designed to develop such a hybrid potato. J. H. Muncie of the botany and plant pathology department says that more than a thousand seedlings have been tested in the field and about 50 have shown considerable resistance to the disease.

Both of the diseases are carried in the seed tuber and also live from year to year in the soil. That means they are immune to attack by seed treatment or spraying.

Muncie also reported that the results of two years' tests in spraying for potato blight show that concentrated spray dosages can be used to an advantage. That means using the fungicide at three times the normal concentration at low pressure.

In areas where water supply and distance are handicaps, the use of concentrated sprays at low pressure helps the potato grower to cover three times more acreage in one filling of the sprayer tank.

Remember that your tractor needs daily grooming to do its best work, suggests Robert White, MSC agricultural engineer.

Special Bulletin 253, "Inheritance of Farm Property in Michigan," from Michigan State College Agricultural Experiment Station, describes Michigan laws on inheritance of farm property. It gives suggestions to help farm families avoid difficulties in the inheritance process.

## BUYING A CAR?



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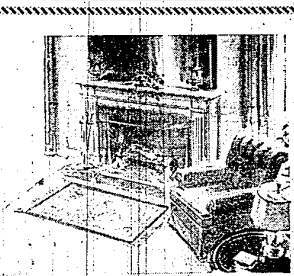
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If your machinery investment is above \$50 per tillable acre on your farm, it would be wise to examine the kind and amount of machinery you own. See if it can be justified, say MSC agricultural economists.

Cheap chicks may be the most expensive. Quality birds may cost you more at the start but you'll be making profits instead of paying out money, advises Michigan State College poultry men.

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