

Breeders Group Changes Date Of Annual Sale

Michigan Hereford Breeders' association will not have the sale that was originally scheduled for Friday, February 26, at Michigan State College.

The association will have its annual sale on Friday, May 14, at the MSC livestock pavilion. The futurity sale is now a fall feature.

Complete fertilizers and mulch are on hand in fruit orchards, reports MSC horticulturists and growers.

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State's Farmers Get \$11,300,000

Michigan farmers last year received more than \$11,300,000 for vegetables sold to canners and processors.

"This income resulted from the harvesting of almost 200,000 tons of vegetables for commercial processing," explained M. P. Cortright, vice president in charge of American Can Company's central division.

"The cash return to the state's farmers was about \$4,500,000 more than for the 1942-51 period and approximately \$600,000 over the previous year," continued the executive for the firm that perfected the modern food can.

Mr. Cortright explained that "the increasing popularity of canned food is directly responsible for the utilization of about 72,600 acres in the state last year for production of asparagus, lima beans, snap beans, cabbage, cucumbers, green peas and tomatoes."

"Michigan in 1953 led all states in the production of cucumbers for processing," he added. "It harvested approximately 25 per cent of the nation's total crop."

MSC Specialist Explains Dual-Purpose Irrigation

Irrigation is not only a crop producer but a crop saver. Instead of a crop/loss on the first freezing fall night, farmers can now gather harvest after many such frost bites, reports John R. Davis, Michigan State College agricultural engineer.

Many growers have found that sprinkler irrigation was the difference between total losses and a crop. The effect of untimely frosts in the northern part of the state and in low marsh areas is disastrous.

Tomatoes, peppers, broccoli, and other crops planted late on the MSC experimental farm were protected through Nov. 3 while the unprotected crops were killed by frost the first week in October.

Agricultural agents and district foresters can give helpful advice on what trees are best to plant in sun or shade, damp or dry areas.

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FARM NEWS



PUTTING IT BLUNTLY—Dead hawks and crows are pinned to trees as a blunt reminder to farmers of their species to stay away from this farm in Leavenworth, Kan. The mute warning consists of seven hawks and six crows, shot down by two Leavenworth hunters who would like to eliminate these damage-causing birds.

FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 26, Michigan Hereford Sale, Livestock Pavilion at Michigan State College.

February 26, Winter Grass Institute, Gratiot County, Alma Army.

February 26 - 27, Upper Peninsula Dairy Manufacturers' annual meeting at Marquette.

March 1, Winter Grass Institute, Monroe County, Danee Veterans Memorial Hall.

March 2, Regional FFA Conference.

March 2, Winter Grass Institute, Livingston County, 4-H Club Building, Fowlerville Fairgrounds.

March 2 - 4, Dairy Engineering Conference, Kellogg Center, MSC.

March 3, Winter Grass Institute, Arenac County, Veterans Memorial Building, Standish.

March 3 - 5, Motel and Resort Institute, MSC.

March 4, Winter Grass Institute, Alpena County, Long Rapids Township Hall.

March 4 - 5, Workshop, Soil Conservation Districts Directors, Higgins Lake.

March 5, Winter Grass Institute, Kalamazoo County, Kalamazoo High School Gym.

March 6, Graduation, MSC Agriculture and Home Economics Short Courses.

March 6, Michigan Swine Breeders' Association Annual Bred Gilt Sale, Livestock Pavilion, MSC.

Farmers' Helping Hand Needed In Research

Much farmers can aid research at Michigan State College in 1954 by sending in specimens of their crop diseases for identification, thus helping the scientists to know of the severity of the disease.

In the past year, according to D. J. deZeeuw of the botany and plant pathology department, cucumber mosaic was severe. The losses from spot rot and angular leaf spot was less, as was loss from pear stem canker. Club root is still dangerous and the long rotation of cabbage varieties is necessary.

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BIG YIELDS DON'T ALWAYS ADD SURPLUS

Why show farmers how to improve crop yields and boost milk production when we have such a surplus of food already?

That's a question some city folks are asking Michigan State College. This is the answer they get from C. R. Hoglund, MSC agricultural economist:

In the first place, better production per acre doesn't necessarily mean greater total production from improved practices. If a farmer uses recommended rotations he will have less acres in cash crops and more acres in grass and legumes. Since he will be producing more per acre, his costs will be cut and total income will be higher than if he were producing the same amount of crop on more acres.

As for adding to the total milk production by improved practices, it isn't necessarily so, Hoglund maintains.

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Prune Trees Soon For Best Results

Back yard orchardists should be following the example of commercial fruit growers this month to start the annual pruning job.

Dr. C. A. Langer of Michigan State College's horticulture department advises that apple trees can be pruned any time now. The idea of pruning is to take out the weak wood which would make small, ugly fruit. And taking out the old, dead wood and broken branches will keep down diseases.

Another reason is to open the tops of trees so more spray can get through the summer foliage.

If you have some peach trees, it is Langer's advice to prune them March 1 because buds are tender and can be injured by cold weather. Here, the wood that

happens to be taken out. This makes it possible for new sucker branches to grow that will produce more succulent peaches.

Prune red raspberry bushes after mid-March. The job is easy from the bushes like you would a hedge, 35 to 40 inches high. For black raspberries, prune to leave the laterals 8 to 12 inches long. Do it after mid-March, too.

Do your pruning on grapes anytime before April 1. Langer suggests. Pruning after the grape sap begins to flow will hurt grape vines and cut yield.

Fit the crop to the land, not the land to the crop, advises Dennis Clinehan, MSC farm cropsman.

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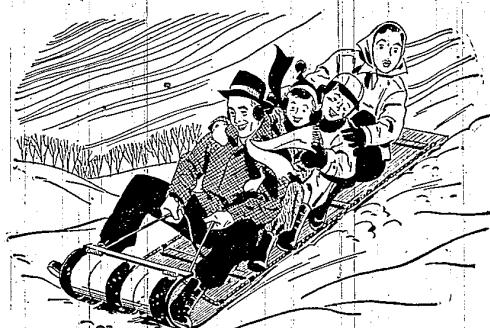
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