

Good sugar bush management can pay off with a gross income of \$270 to \$350 per acre, Forester P. W. Robbins of MSC believes.

Enterprise Classified Ads Cost Only a Few Cents, Yet They Gain You Many Dollars

When choosing cabbage, select solid heads, heavy for size, free from yellow leaves. One pound makes seven to eight half-cup servings raw, four to five servings cooked, according to home economists at Michigan State College.

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4-H Boy Reports Hungarian Birds

The first report of Hungarian partridge released near Rudyard in the eastern upper peninsula was made this week by a ten year old 4-H Bird Club member, conservation workers say.

Ronald Polkema wrote to say that nine of the birds had been making occasional trips to the Polkema farm northeast of Rudyard to gather stray kernels of grain spilled near the farm buildings last fall.

These birds, at least, have apparently solved the problem of food, but wildlife always has to face many other problems as well. Ronald's letter noted that "Sunday morning when the nine birds flew up, one of them hit the electric wire and sure then we have noticed only eight."

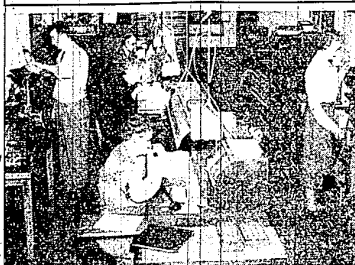
Forty-nine of the birds were released in the eastern portion of the peninsula in mid-February.

Community Calendar Aid Offered By U-M

How to prepare a community calendar to properly list such activities and prevent overlapping of events is outlined in a booklet published by the University of Michigan.

Requests for the booklet should be addressed to Community Adult Education, 4205 University High School, Ann Arbor.

Field and Garden Seeds Tested By State Department of Agriculture



Purity and germination of seeds bought by Michigan farmers and gardeners are tested in this Michigan Department of Agriculture laboratory at Lansing. More than 18,000 tests are run each year, the seed buyers' guarantee he is getting what he pays for. Read the tag on the seed you buy.

MALT BARLEY PROFITABLE IN MICHIGAN

Michigan farmers who are working about what to do with extra wheat or corn acreage might profit by producing molting barley, a portion of that land.

That's a suggestion from Leyton V. Nelson, extension farm crops specialist at Michigan State College, Lansing, who last year gave points out, molting barley has brought a substantial premium over feed barley. And there is a market for 8 to 10 million bushels of molting barley — a market now supplied largely by Canadian and Dakota barley.

Nelson has these suggestions for farmers interested in producing molting barley: Select an acceptable variety — either Kindred or Montclair. They will yield about as well as Moore, a variety malsters won't accept. The only agricultural agent or local seed dealer will know about supplies. Kindred grain is white while Montclair grain has a blue layer on the seed immediately beneath the hull.

Use good seed. Certified seed is preferable in order to avoid varietal mixtures. Plant early in good barley soil. Use enough commercial fertilizer.

Windrow to reduce losses from lodging and combine from the windrow. Adjust the combine to prevent shelling and broken heads. Harvest damaged grain sells at a discount.

Plan to store the crop and store it dry to maintain high quality. Malsters usually do not have storage facilities at harvest time.

Arrange early with the local elevator to market the crop.

RACCOONS DIE OF 'DISTEMPER-LIKE' DISEASE

About 100 raccoons have been found dead or dying in southern Michigan counties during the last three years, victims of what biologists call a "distemper-like disease."

First reports of the diseased animals came from Branch County in 1951. In 1952, reports were received from southern counties and last year, numbers of the animals were found in Clinton and Eaton Counties and a few in more northern areas.

As usual in such cases, game workers say, these reports indicate many more animals are probably dying but are not found.

One reason for the die-off may be Michigan's currently high coon populations.

When wildlife populations grow unusually large, they seem more open to widespread disease. The history of such epidemics is that they tend to keep populations in check or, at least, consistent with available habitat.

State conservation men are watching the die-off with close interest but say there is little that can be done at present. They have asked that farmers and woodsmen report to local conservation workers if they find any dead or apparently sick coons.

FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2 and 3, Show, Livestock Pavilion, MSC.
April 3, Michigan Fur Breeders' Association annual spring meeting, Kellogg Center, MSC.
April 5 - 7, Tenth Annual Dairy and Food Inspectors, and Sanitation School, Kellogg Center, Michigan State College.
April 7 and 8, 50th Annual Agricultural Finance Clinic with Michigan Bankers' Association, Kellogg Center, MSC.
April 9, Sixth Annual Egg Marketing Day, MSC.

Michigan farmers should select early maturing corn hybrids. Past performances of the hybrids can be found in Extension Folder P-47, available at county extension offices.

AVERAGE AGE OF FARMERS DECLINING

The average age of Michigan farmers is going down, contrary to popular notions. A survey by R. B. Hill, Michigan State College agricultural economist, shows that the average age has declined almost one year in the past decade to 49.9 years.

Thirty-seven per cent of Michigan farmers are now under 45 years of age, an increase of 6 per cent since 1940. The number of farmers over 65 has remained at the same figure since 1930.

There was some variation in the ages of farmers in the economic areas throughout the state. The western half of the Upper Peninsula had the largest proportion of farmers over 65 and was among the lowest in the number under 45.

The largest percentage of younger farmers is in the Thumb area of Michigan. Forty per cent of those were under 45 and had the smallest proportion over 65.

The three 10-year age groups, 35 - 44, 45 - 54, and 55 - 64, had about 25 per cent of the farmers throughout the state.

According to Hill's survey, the younger farmers operate the larger farms. There may be some tie-in between age and energy, says Hill, and the fact that this young group has the growing farms and the large debt may be responsible for their having larger farms. The older farmers are still inclined toward the poultry farm. The average age of poultry farmers was five and one-half years above the overall average. The specialized crop farmer averages the youngest in age.

Adopt Different Plan For Trapping Muskrats

A new system of muskrat trapping was put into effect with good results on the Pointe Stille marshes near Monroe last season, conservation game workers say.

The old method was to auction rights to trap on each of 15 acres of the marsh. Each winning trapper, who paid only a small sum, would then share his take with the state at the end of the season.

The method was cumbersome and difficult to administer. This year, the share-cropping idea was junked and minimum price bids placed on each area. A trapper who won the right to trap paid more, but was then able to keep his entire take.

Both trappers and state workers said they like the new plan better.

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My recipe for BOSTON BROWN BREAD...

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BOSTON BROWN BREAD

1 cup seeded muscat raisins
2 1/2 cups hot water
3 cups 100% bran cereal
3 cups flour, sifted

2 1/2 teaspoons soda
2 1/2 teaspoons salt
2 1/2 tablespoons shortening
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 egg, beaten

Boil raisins and water together 5 minutes. Add bran. Set aside to cool. Sift flour, soda and salt together. Set aside to cool. Mix together. Mix in beaten egg. Add sifted dry ingredients alternately with cooled raisin mixture. Place in 4 buttered No. 2 cans. Bake 60 minutes at 350°F. Turn temperature down to 325°F and bake another 20 minutes.

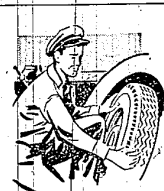
Ask for other interesting recipes at your Edison office.

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