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MOST FARM FIRES 'INSIDE JOBS' STATISTICS PROVE

How do most of Michigan's farm fires get started? Statistics prove that they're "inside jobs," six out of eight times, says David G. Steinleke, extension farm safety specialist at Michigan State College. He and the Michigan Rural Safety Council are promoting a campaign this month to cut down on fire and accidents on farms and in homes.

When fires start on the outside of a building, he points out, they are usually due to lack of lightning rod protection and roofs of flammable material. But for the majority of fires, he suggests, these rules can do a big job of prevention:

1. Above all else, practice good housekeeping. Disorder and dirt near heating plants, incubators and brooders will cause rapid spread of fires even if they are not the cause.
2. If you're operating an oil-burning incubator or brooder, don't store extra drums of fuel oil in the brooder house. Trim the wicks and clean the burner every day and be sure the incubator is on a fire-safe floor.
3. If you're using a slow burning fire, such as that from coal, be careful in regulating the draft and make flues of heavy metal or brick. Be sure floor litter can't be scratched into direct contact with the base of the stove.
4. If you're using an electric brooder, be sure the wiring system is safe. And keep fuses and switch boxes free of dust and dirt.

WAYS TO EXPAND MILK CONSUMPTION, MARKET DISCUSSED

Discussion of ways and means to expand their market and stimulate increased milk consumption in fluid form as a means of "self-help" in keeping with today's record production provided the principal subject on the agenda of a recent meeting of the Detroit area delegates of the Michigan Milk Producers Association at the Waterford Community Activities Building.

Unanimous action was taken in support of intensified programs, both at the local level and nationally by the American Dairy Association, for greater promotion of milk and dairy products sales through expanded merchandising, research and advertising programs.

President I. K. Maystead and Secretary-manager Howard F. Simmons of the association outlined to the delegates the many problems now confronting the dairy industry as a result of the greatly increased production of milk in all parts of the country together with lowering of support prices by the U. S. Department of Agriculture on April 1. It was pointed out that the consumption per capita dairy products generally has lagged and that the dairy industry is now being challenged to provide its own solution to the problems which confront it.

Agriculture Department Advises Care In Purchasing Nursery Stock

In the spring a gardener's fancy lightly turns to planting seeds, plants and shrubs, according to C. A. Boyer, chief of the Michigan Department of Agriculture's bureau of plant industry.

Boyer believes what is so hopefully planted in the spring may wither into disappointment unless the purchaser of nursery stock turns a deaf ear to some of the swindlers who each spring victimize homeowners with rackets. These rackets cost inexperienced gardeners and landowners many thousands of dollars each year.

The purchaser of nursery stock, seeds, shrubs, plants and plant materials has one safeguard, says Boyer. "Buy nursery stock," he advises, "only from persons or firms licensed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. You have a perfect right to ask to see the seller's license or a certificate of inspection which shows the product has been officially inspected and found apparently free from dangerous insects and contagious plant diseases."

Purchasers of nursery stock should beware of glib-tongued salesmen or advertisements offering extravagant claims of unbelievably low prices. In Boyer's opinion: "He says all nursery stock is sold by grades established by the American Nurserymen's Association. Like any other merchandise you cannot expect to buy top quality products at ridiculously low prices. Certificates of inspection are the buyer's guarantee that what he is buying is free from plant diseases and insect infestation."

Michigan is one of the leading states in production of quality nursery stock. This stock is carefully inspected by representatives of the Michigan Department of Agriculture which issues certificates showing grade and condition.

The garden lover may save money and avoid disappointment by asking to see the seller's license from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and also the certificate covering the products being offered.

Changing Over For Band Seeding Easy

Until farm implement manufacturers begin to build special "conversion kits" farmers will still have to change their own grain drill for band seeding.

In order to aid farmers, the farm crops department at Michigan State College has published a formal extension folder to show how to convert the drills.

You can get a copy of Extension Folder P-150, "Band Seeding for Better Forage Seeding," from your county extension office. Or you can write to the Bulletin Office, Michigan State College, for a copy. Pictures of several kinds of drills with the band seeder apparatus attached help show you how to do the job.

A few hours time and \$5 or \$10 for materials will enable a farmer to convert any make of drill into a modern legume seeder, the publication says.

Experiments have shown that seeding rates can be reduced by one-fifth by band seeding rather than broadcast. The fertilizer planted with the seed helps carry it past drought, insect attacks and weed competition.

Band seeding is not a cure-all. Lime, fertilizer, inoculation, adapted seed, weed control and proper seed placement are essential for good seedings, MSC specialists emphasize.

The price spread between alfalfa and clover this year is unusually small. MSC specialists believe this should encourage the establishment of alfalfa seedings.

John Clappison Sells Insurance



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Farm. 0187

TOMATO PLANT GROWING MADE EASIER BY MSC

Michigan growers who grow their own tomato plants for transplant purposes or those who grow them for sale will be able to do the job easier now, thanks to research at Michigan State College.

Mrs. Miriam C. Strong, of the MSC botany and plant pathology department, has shown that treating tomato seed with certain fungicides will control a disease called damping off, one of the biggest headaches of plant growers. She found that Cuprodeco, Arasan, TMTD dust, Crag 658 and 5400 controlled damping off satisfactorily without causing injury to the seedlings.

Before the discovery that fungicide would do the job, it was necessary to steam-sterilize the seedbed soil, flits and tools and be sure the items were not re-contaminated—all this to prevent "damping off."

Mrs. Strong also points out that it's also necessary, even with the use of fungicide seed treatment, to allow for good seeded drainage, to seed thinly in rows, not broadcast; and to avoid excess moisture—water only when the soil surface is dry. About 8,100 acres of tomato plants are grown from seed in Michigan.

In Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi, electric utility plants by 1956 are expected to consume 8 million more tons of coal than at present.

Michigan's department of agriculture feels that excluding resistant varieties grown on red stele soil from certification will be a progressive step toward eliminating the possibility of infecting more of the strawberry producing soils in Michigan. Through road grower cooperation and intensive inspection of strawberry plants by Department men, the amount of red stele disease found in Michigan strawberry plantations is steadily declining, Mr. Boyer said.


Last year Michigan stood third in the nation among states producing strawberries. There were 1,950,000 crates produced with an estimated value of \$7,077,000. Production is centered mainly in the southwestern counties of Berrien, Van Buren, Allegan and Ottawa.

Hog Raisers Should Spray For Mange Now

Hog raisers should be getting ready to spray for mange.

Michigan State College specialists point out that treating hogs with benzene hexachloride or lindane is worth while if there are indications of mange.

The spraying will pay off in more rapid gains and healthier hogs, they assert. The specialists recommend following directions on the chemical label. Spraying young pigs is not recommended, but sows should be sprayed three weeks before farrowing to prevent the spread of mange to their offspring.



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Your Lawn**

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DEKALB Dealers are always glad to help you with your Corn and Cereals. Your DEKALB dealer is listed below. See him—don't delay.

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KLINGER HATCHERY, Bridgewater, Mich.
MOORE HATCHERIES, 41735 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Mich.

PLANTED BY MORE FARMERS THAN ANY OTHER SEED CORN FOR 14 STRAIGHT YEARS

My recipe for **SPICY RAISIN TORTE**...

always successful in my
**ELECTRIC
RANGE**



Energetic Mrs. Harry R. Smith crowds civic projects, selling real estate, club activities and home-making into her busy life. And she thrives on it. She loves to entertain, too. When friends call she often serves this Spicy Raisin Torte. It's delicious... and so simple to make with the help of her shortening electric range.

It's easy to be a good cook with the help of a modern electric range. There's no guesswork, waiting or waiting—you simply snap a switch for the exact heat needed for every cooking job. Why wait? Change to electric cooking now.

SPICY RAISIN TORTE

1 cup brown sugar	1 cup sifted pastry flour
1 1/2 cups hot water	1 tsp. soda
2 tbsps. shortening	1 tsp. salt
1 cup raisins or dates	1 cup quick-cooking oats
3/4 tsp. cloves	1 cup chopped nuts
	1/4 tsp. nutmeg

Combine sugar, water, shortening, raisins and spices. Boil 5 minutes. Cool. Sift flour, soda, salt, and add to cool mixture. Fold in rolled oats and nut meats. Bake in an 8 x 8 greased pan at 350° F. for 35-45 minutes. Serve warm with whipped cream or ice cream. May be reheated.

Ask for other interesting recipes at your Edison office.

**SEE YOUR DEALER
or Detroit Edison**

FREE!

2,500 HEALTHY BABY CHICKS

**FRIDAY, APRIL 23
at
8:30 A. M.**

10 BABY CHICKS WILL BE GIVEN AWAY
ABSOLUTELY FREE TO EACH ADULT
AS LONG AS CHICKS LAST!
(Limit 20 to a family)

NO PURCHASE REQUIRED

Bring your own container for the chicks.
No children unless accompanied by parents.

**Friday, April 23
at 8:30 A. M.
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