

Egg prices are down and heavy hen prices up. This is one of the best times to cull, say MSC poultrymen.

The average age of Michigan farmers has declined almost one year in the past decade to 49.9 years.

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

So They Stopped Baiting Each Other

If you want to hear a real hassle, listen to Cob James and Whitey Baker on trout fishing sometime. You'll think it was more important than anything.

Cob favors dry flies. Whitey pooh-poohs anything but wet flies. Cob swears by a Fan-Wing Royal Coachman; Whitey won't hear of anything but Silver Doctor. And so it goes—they can't even get together on steel rods versus bamboo rods.

But on Saturday, each got back from Fox Creek with a catch that couldn't have differed by more

than a couple of ounces! Then over a friendly glass of beer, they allowed as how maybe they were both right—which is how so many arguments should end.

From where I sit, life would be a whole lot pleasanter if we all respected one another's opinions—whether about trout flies, or having a glass of beer, or voting.

After all, a person has a right to follow his own line of thinking.

Joe Marsh

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FARM NEWS



EARLY SOYBEAN PLOWING ADVISED BY M. S. C. SPECIALIST

Plow early for soybeans this year. The yields of soybeans may be reduced by half or more if a meadow crop is plowed down just prior to plowing, warns H. R. Pettigrove of the Michigan State College farm crops department.

Pettigrove points out that there is very little moisture in the soil this year and if the crop is allowed to grow until planting time it will leave little moisture for the soybeans—unless rains come at planting time and during the growing season.

Soybeans should be planted about mid-May to get the best results—unless you have to delay to get control of the weeds.

Blackhawk is by far the outstanding variety in Michigan, says Pettigrove. It makes excellent yields, it stands well and is a desirable market type. New strains are continually being tested and new varieties are expected to be developed in the near future.

Early Bird Planters Stand To Get Hurt Should Late Frost Strike

Every year, while some early bird is getting the worm by planting a garden early, some other early bird is getting out down by a late spring frost.

Planting time is here for gardeners in some parts of Michigan but it is best to wait in other parts, advises Jack Rose, gardening specialist at Michigan State College.

Rose points out that planting calendars designed for some parts further south will not work in the northern areas of Michigan. The frost-free days in southern Michigan is May 1 to 15 and May 15 to 30 in central and northern Michigan.

The time to plant the garden depends on where you live and the date of the last killing frost. If you are in doubt about the frost date, call the weather station of your county agricultural agent.

Garden crops are divided into five groups. The first includes peas, radishes, lettuce, onions, spinach, cabbage, broccoli and kohlrabi. They can be planted outside three to four weeks before the last killing frost.

The second group, to be planted two weeks before frost-free dates, includes carrots, beets, early cauliflower, parsnips, salsify, and Swiss chard.

The third group should be planted the first week after the last average frost. It includes the first plantings of the warm season crops.

Timing is Necessary For Good Weed Control

New weed killers work best when weeds are very small, or in some cases, before the weeds emerge from the ground, according to R. F. Carlson of the Michigan State College horticulture department.

For the best weed control, Carlson advises the soil should be moist, but not wet, when the chemicals are applied. Air temperature needs to be warm—around 75 degrees.

Carlson points out the importance of timing the spray when irrigation is used. "Don't irrigate immediately after applying weed sprays," he cautions. "If the soil is dry, irrigate and then spray six to eight days later."

Carlson also offers these pointers on grass control in crops. "By looking ahead and starting a grass control program a year or so in advance, the grass can be eliminated at planting time. Chemicals such as TCA used with cultivation prior to planting is one way of having a grass-free planting."

FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 22, Irrigation Conference, Kellogg Center, Michigan State College.

April 29, Michigan Association of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, Union, Michigan State College.

April 26 and 27, Dairy Plant Fieldmen's Conference, Kellogg Center, Michigan State College.

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DEBRIS-BURNERS, SMOKERS CAUSE MOST FOREST FIRES

Smokers and debris-burners are responsible for more than 70 percent of the forest fires in Michigan. That's the word from L. A. Carter of Michigan State College's forestry department.

Explaining that, "We can't afford the luxury of forest fires," Carter has this advice for Michiganians:

Use the car ash tray for cigarette butts and be sure your match is out before throwing it away.

If you're walking through woods, scrape away leaf litter and stamp out your cigarette on pipe heel in mineral soil. Throw a match before throwing it away—if it won't burn your finger, it's not likely to harm the woods.

Brush and trash should not be burned until you check to see that's wide enough to stop the spread of a fire.

Treat Seed Corn For Better Stand

Corn growers who have had trouble with getting a good stand of corn in past years would be wise to treat their seed before planting.

That's the advice from Extension Entomologist Ray Jones of Michigan State College. If your seed corn hasn't been treated by the seedsmen from whom the purchase was made, Jones says, it's a good idea to treat with a combination of lindane and captan or a mixture of lindane and thiram. The fungicide would give protection against seed-rot fungi, another trouble-maker.

Many sweet corn growers have been treating seed for several years and find it pays, according to Jones. The combination chemical treatment is available at seed stores.

Details on how to treat seed and other information on the subject are contained in Extension Bulletin 312, "Insect and Disease Control in Vegetables and Truck Crops." It's available at the county extension office or from the Bulletin Office, Michigan State College.

Programs To Be Given On Boosting Corn Yield

Special programs designed to show how to reduce costs and produce larger yields of corn are slated for the week of April 26 over WKAR-TV, Michigan State College's station.

The "Corn Week" programs will be telecast Monday through Friday at 8:30 p.m. as a part of the regular "Better Farming" program of MSC's Cooperative Extension Service.

Leighton V. Nelson of the Michigan State farm crops department said the programs "will help farmers boost the average corn yield from the past 10-year average of 38 bushels per acre to 55." Bigger yields cut costs and boost profits, he added.

It's possible to save up to \$5 an acre in tillage cost by using once-over cultivation without reducing yields on spring planted crops.

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Temp: 350° F. Time: 30 Min.

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2 cups soft bread crumbs
1 cup diced cheese
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup melted butter, if desired

Mix well. Pour into greased casserole dish. Bake.

Make butter in suetpan. Add corn, celery, green pepper and onion. Sauté until tender. Add remaining ingredients. Mix well. Pour into greased casserole dish. Bake.

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