

Value Of Farmhand's Work Drops In 1953

A farmhand's average day's work was worth a dollar less in 1953 than in 1952, point out Michigan State College agricultural economists. The net per "productive man work unit" - about equal to the average amount of work done by one man on a farm - was \$4.00. Generally lower prices for some products, such as milk, may cut the farm labor returns for 1954, cautions Economist Glenn L. Johnson.



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FARM NEWS

NEW FINDINGS ON COWS TO BE AIRED AT MABC MEETING

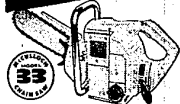
Farmers with problem cows and dairy problems will seek solutions on August 5 at the tenth anniversary celebration of Michigan Artificial Breeders Cooperative, south farms, Michigan State College.

New findings about why cows do not conceive will be offered at the repeat breeder experiment on Hagendorn Road, where buses will take visitors from MABC headquarters on Forest Road. The MABC has provided \$15,000 a year to help finance investigations by staff members of the School of Veterinary Medicine.

The MABC anniversary event will be visited by Ezra Taft Benson, making his first speech to a Michigan farm group since he became secretary of agriculture. MABC Secretary - Manager A. C. Baltzer is inviting farmers and their families.

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Squeeze Test Determines Moisture Content Of Crops For Ensilage

How can you tell when a chopped hay crop is ready to put in the silo?

J. G. Hays, extension dairyman at Michigan State College, suggests the "squeeze test". It works this way: Squeeze a handful of freshly-chopped hay. If there is moisture on your hand the material is too wet for ensiling. If you can't make the material stick together by squeezing it, it's too dry. If a roll you're squeezing will spring apart slowly, the moisture content is right.

The time it is safe to chop from the standing crop, when you don't need to use a silage preservative, can be determined in the following manner:

When grass makes up half the stand, as in alfalfa - bromegrass, timothy, direct cutting and chopping is safe when alfalfa plants are well into the half-bloom stage. If you don't have alfalfa in your silage crop, you can judge when to chop by the bloom stage of your neighbor's alfalfa.

If you are going to ensile a legume - alfalfa, red clover or sweet clover - chop the crop should be in full bloom. Lindeno clover, though, is a problem - it's still too juicy for direct chopping when alfalfa is past full bloom.

Use a preservative. Hays advises, when the direct-chopped material is too wet. Molasses should be used at the rate of at least 40 pounds per ton; corn and cob

Tractors Involved In Many Accidents

A girl, 7, suffered a fatal skull fracture when a tractor passed over her. A man, 38, died of a crushed chest and broken neck after a tractor tipped over on him. A man, 75, suffocated while a tractor pinned his head in soft earth.

Farm accidents like these, endangering lives from childhood to old age are repeated every year.

Twenty-two of the 30 fatal farm accidents from machinery in Michigan involved tractors, according to David Steinke, extension safety specialist at Michigan State College. The majority of such accidents occur when the tractor overturns into a hole or ditch, or because of improper hitching, overturns backward.

The rules for safety include: Stay away from ditches. Don't turn at high speeds. Keep the brake pedals locked together when traveling in road gear. Prevent backward tipping by hitching trailing implements or objects to the drawbar. Tipping sideways can often be prevented by spacing the rear wheels as wide as possible.

Steinke adds that one of the best safety devices that can be put on your tractor is a good, safe driver.

New Pasteurizing Method 'Safer'

Eighty per cent of the 3,700,000 quarts of milk consumed in the state each day is pasteurized with an automatic high-temperature, short-time pasteurizer which turns out a product superior to that of older methods. The present day pasteurizer is checked and sealed six times a year by representatives of the Bureau of Dairying of the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Strict in its milk requirements, Michigan adopted a compulsory pasteurization law in 1945, the first state in the union to do so. Since before that 39 per cent of the milk was pasteurized by dairies who installed the expensive equipment voluntarily.

Pasteurization is the heating of milk to destroy unwholesome bacteria and thus assuring a milk of superior flavor which keeps better under household conditions. The older process heated milk to 145 degrees and held it at that temperature for 30 minutes.

Under the high-temperature short-time process now used by more than 100 Michigan dairies and cheese plants, the milk is instantly brought to 161 degrees. The temperature is maintained for only 10 seconds, and the milk is immediately cooled.

"The system is more positive and turns out a better milk than ever before," according to P. M. Skiver, chief of the Michigan Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Dairying.

For the dairy or cheese plant owner, the equipment used in the modern process takes a fifth as much space and makes a 30 per cent saving on fuel and power. To assure the best possible milk for Michigan consumers, inspectors of Agriculture use an automatic timing device which checks the full 16-second holding time of the 161-degree temperature, and also makes an accurate check of heat and volume control elements. The mechanism is then sealed with the Department's seal.

Chemical Can Help Bloat, MSC Researcher States

If you have chronic bloaters in your dairy herd, you might try a chemical that may prevent trouble while cows are on pasture.

Carl P. Huffman, a dairy researcher at Michigan State College, reports that methyl silicane has prevented the frothy type of bloat in MSC experiments.

Methyl Silicane is sold under various trade names. Directions are on the containers. One brand calls for mixing one pound with 500 pounds of grain and feeding one pound of the grain-chemical mixture daily per head. Your veterinarian can tell you where you can buy the chemical.

FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 22 - 25, Regional Conference, Future Homemakers of America, at Michigan State College.
June 24, Annual Elevator Career Day, Michigan State College.
June 28 - July 1, Annual 4-H Club Week, contest eliminations, at Michigan State College.

Irrigation has been used to protect Michigan strawberries from frost as early as May 3 and as late as June 22. It has shielded tomatoes as early as April 15 and celery as late as October 15.

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'Barn-Fogger' Type Of Fly Control Equipment Termed Impractical By MSC Entomologist

Push-button fly control with an automatic "barn fogger" may work for some barns, but for the average cow house in Michigan, it isn't practical. That's the word from Ray Hutson, head of the Michigan State College entomology department.

The barn fogger usually consists of a container equipped with four-direction nozzle attached to an air compressor.

The big reason why it is not practical for most barns, Hutson says, is that there are too many

air pockets to prevent good circulation of the insecticide where it will do the most good.

He advises farmers to stick with fly bait insecticides and spray materials, and sanitation, to do the best job of fly control.

Poison ivy, ground plant, trailing vine or climber can be controlled with ammonium sulfate, 2.4-D or 2,4,5-T or a mixture of the two esters, reminds B. H. Grigsby, MSC plant physiologist.

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