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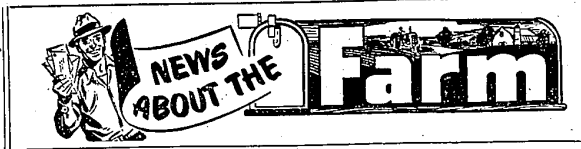
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NEWS ABOUT THE FARM



DRAFTY CALF PEN CAN CUT PROFITS, STATES EXPERT

Those expensive heifer calves you're keeping will grow up to be healthier milk cows if you keep them in a draftless pen this fall and winter.

A lot of calves get sick because of a pen the owner thought was draftless, points out J. G. Hays, extension dairyman at Michigan State College.

A draftless pen, according to Hays, is one with no openings except at the top. This kind of pen has been used successfully at MSC for many years.

The extension dairyman says the pen should measure at least 3 by 5 feet with the sides made of plywood or some other hard surface material. That's because calves like to chew on flimsy material.

A three-foot pen is high enough for the three months the calf will be quartered there. And Hays adds: If the calf has plenty of bedding and is safe from drafts, her chance of catching pneumonia is slim.

CONCRETE ROADS PROVED SAFER THAN BLACKTOP

Recent tests have again proved the superiority of concrete as a skid-resistant paving surface.

Results show drivers can stop quicker on concrete than on asphalt pavement—a built-in safety feature due to concrete's gritty surface that lessens danger of skidding or swerving.

Studies show that blacktop parking, when wet, loses from 34 to 47 per cent of its skid resistance at speeds of 20 to 40 miles per hour. Concrete loses only 10 to 24 per cent.

At 20 miles per hour wet bituminous pavement has only 65.6 per cent of its dry coefficient of friction, whereas concrete has 82.9 per cent. At 40 miles per hour the coefficient of friction of wet bituminous paving only 35.4 per cent of the dry while concrete's is 76.9 per cent. The tests showed dry bituminous paving only 35.4 per cent as effective as dry concrete's skid resistance at 20 miles per hour.

In a southern state a recent study of accidents due to road conditions revealed that on bituminous pavement there were three times as many fatalities, four times as many injuries, and four times as much property damage as on concrete pavement carrying equal volumes of traffic.

Methoxychlor is recommended for lice control on dairy cows, 1500 entomologists point out.

Farmers To Be Affected By Changes In Social Security Regulations

Two provisions of the 1954 Social Security Law are going to affect farmers, says Rex A. C. Atwood, manager of the Pontiac Social Security Office.

The first provision simplifies reporting of wages for employees of farmers. "A farmer won't have to count the days a man works for him any more, to determine if he is regularly employed," says Atwood. "If his cash wages for any employer are \$100 or more, he's covered by social security and will need a social security number." This provision becomes effective in 1955.

The second provision also becomes effective in 1955. If a farmer makes a profit of over \$400 in any year after 1954, he'll be under social security like most other self-employed people. However, Congress has written special rules to make reporting easy for farmers. If a farmer's gross is \$1800 or less and he reports on a cash basis, he'll have a choice between reporting his actual net or half his gross. If a farmer's gross is over \$1800, he will have to figure his actual net earnings. But here again he has a choice: If his net is under \$300, he can report his actual net or \$300—whichever is to his advantage.

A representative of the Pontiac office is at the Municipal Building in Farmington on the first and third Wednesday of each month between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. All questions on social security will be answered.

Sheepmen To Get Price Support

Michigan sheepmen will get a total of about 62 cents a pound for wool shorn after January 1. That includes the government payment.

Arthur Mauch, a Michigan State College agricultural economist, explains the payment operation this way: Sheepmen will receive a direct payment from the government after they sell wool on the open market.

The government payment will be approximately the difference between the U. S. average price and the 62 cents a pound.

Mauch points out that the 62 cents is 106 per cent of the September wool parity price. The subsidy to each sheep raiser, for the 1955 clip probably will not be known until 1956, he indicates.

And the total amount of money available for the payment is limited to 70 per cent of the tariff receipts on wool imports. Mauch advises farmers to keep accurate receipts of the wool they sell in order to get the government payment.

Ag. School Enrollment Higher At M. S. C.

Enrollment in Michigan State College's agricultural school rose this year along with the general enrollment increase at the college in East Lansing.

The School of Agriculture last enrollment figures show 1,293 students. This is a jump of 58 over last year.

The increase will mean more vocational agriculture teachers and more foresters. The increase in agricultural education was tops, with 24 more than last year. Forestry has 22 additional students.

Fido's Fleas May Plague House Also, Expert Says

Fido got the fleas? Well then, the house may have them, too. Just treating Fido doesn't mean you'll get rid of those fleas in the house.

Ray Jones, Michigan State College extension entomologist, advises this:

Dust the dog thoroughly with rotenone powder—the three-fourths of one per cent mixture. Clean out the dog's sleeping quarters and dust it with rotenone, too.

Then spray the floor with an insecticide mixture that won't stain. A methoxychlor-pyrethrum mixture is good. And be sure to cover the sofa or chair where your pet relaxes.

Plants Serve As Disguise For Unattractive Spots

Practically every house has a thermostat, switch, or even a damaged spot on the wall that might be better out of sight.

There are any number of ways you can disguise unsightly features. Plants are good for this purpose.

A clock with a planter base is placed so leaves extending from the planter cover the thermostat, without interfering with its use. The plant hides the thermostat, yet the leaves can be pulled aside for checking the temperature.

It is noted that the planter isn't just hung on the wall by itself, but is part of a pleasant, informal grouping of accessories which fit into an attractive wall-arrangement "picture." This type of arrangement will depend on the location of the feature you want disguised.

Farmers who use practices that have proved profitable can reduce unit costs of producing wheat, oats, corn and sugar beets by 16 to 20 per cent, MSC specialists say.

Dairy cattle, hogs and sheep will eat cut beans better if the beans are cooked, MSC dairymen say.

A total of 1,293 men and women are studying agriculture courses at Michigan State College this fall.

...and **GARDEN**

Hunters, Farmers Gain By Restoration Work

Small game hunters in southern Michigan are receiving benefits this fall from taxes they have paid on hunting equipment purchased since 1927.

The taxes have been collected under the Pittman-Robertson federal wildlife restoration act. A portion of the money has been used in Michigan's farm game habitat restoration program, started in 1948.

Under the habitat program, more than 7,400,000 trees and shrubs and about 7 1/2 tons of grass and legume seeds have been provided free to 3600 farms in the southern half of the lower peninsula.

These plantings are welcome both to farmers and wildlife. The farmer gains free plantings for windbreaks and hedgerows and small game makes use of the plantings for food and cover.

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