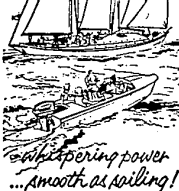


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Plant Health Board To Meet In Michigan

Men in charge of plant health and plant insect control work in the 12 Central States will hold their first convention in Michigan in 20 years when they meet in Lansing on February 8 and 9.

The coming Lansing meeting will be attended by Federal and State regulatory officials and some members of their staffs who deal with the inspection of plants for diseases and insects.



FLORISTS



NEWS ABOUT THE Farm

Farm Land Prices To Level Off, Economists State

Michigan farmers may find land prices leveling off in the next several years, predict Michigan State College agricultural economists.

The farmers may find the next several years as favorable as any to buy that farm they've been looking for, or add those additional acres.

The MSC economists consider the next year favorable for those farmers who are in good position to make a sizeable down payment, or those who need some acreage to "round out" their present business.

K. T. Wright, MSC farm economist, comments that "it may be well for farmers to be alert for purchases of nearby land or farms." He points out that if farmers continue to wait for land prices to drop, the "farm they want may already be sold when they are ready to buy."

What's keeping farm land prices up in Michigan? Wright says there are five reasons.

One is the continued farm price support program. The coming of the St. Lawrence Seaway will further increase real estate values in the state.

New commercial and industrial developments in the outlying parts of the state are boosting prices there. The increasing population will further boost demand for land. The spreading out of the cities is increasing the price near the suburbs.



SOMETHING TO "BROOD" ABOUT—Mama's looking woeful about the sad situation, but this biddy on the M. O. Olsen farm near Davenport, Wash., has cheerfully gone to the dogs. She mothers the pups constantly, and rules the roost completely when Mama goes out for a walk.

Program Of Testing Cattle For TB Now Under Way In Oakland County

A program of tuberculin testing of cattle for the purpose of re-accreditation of Oakland County as a modified tuberculosis-free area by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and the U. S. Department of Agriculture is now under way in fifteen townships, according to Dr. Lyle Davidson, Michigan State veterinarian.

Bovine tuberculosis has cost Michigan dairymen and stockmen hundreds of thousands of dollars, Dr. Davidson says. Under certain conditions, it is transmissible to man. It can also be spread to swine, cats, dogs, and other animals.

Townships being tested are: Holly, Groveland, Brandon, Oxford, Addison, Oakland, Orion, Independence, Springfield, Rose, Waterford, Pontiac, and Avon.

One-half of each county is re-tested every three years and the infection must not exceed one-half of one per cent in order for the county to be re-accredited as a tuberculosis-free area. Oakland County, according to the latest estimate, has approximately 36,000 head of cattle.

Testing will be done by local veterinarians wherever their services are available to the state. Present assignments are Dr. J. W. Eastman, Avon Township; Dr. Charles Failing, Oxford Township; Dr. R. A. McNeil, Orion; Dr. A. J. Schull, Addison; Dr. K. W. Soncrat, Waterford; and Dr. C. E. Trimmer, Holly. Other townships will be assigned as veterinarians are available. Local arrangements are being made by Dr. R. W. Boone, Federal Veterinarian, who is in charge of the state program.

Reactors to the tuberculin test as soon as appraised are to be shipped direct to federally inspected establishments for slaughter. Ap-

Potato Prices Stable For '55

Michigan potato growers are in a much better position this year than in 1953. They are not so much worried about their 1955 crop but are more concerned how the demand will continue for the spuds they have in storage now, say Michigan State College agricultural economists.

The potato crop this past season was small. Michigan harvested 43 per cent less than in 1953 and 48 per cent less than the 10 year average. Growers will be watching the reports of the January 1 national potato stocks.

Consumers use about 24 million bushels per month. If the January 1 stocks top the amount needed for food until the next crop is harvested, it may be best to sell before the end of January.

There is growing feeling among the potato trade that these stocks will be higher than first expected

proved establishments for receiving tuberculin cattle for slaughter are the Detroit stockyards; Wolin Packing Company, Flint; and the Murray Packing Company, Plainwell.

When tuberculosis infected cattle are shipped out of Michigan, they shall be accompanied by Federal permit and shipped only to a plant under Federal inspection.

An inspection program designed to improve the quality of Michigan's manufactured dairy products and thereby increase demand for them is making excellent progress, according to F. M. Skiver, chief of the important bureau of dairying of the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

In Michigan there are about 105,000 dairy farms that supply milk and cream to manufacturers, and there are about 35,000 supplying the fluid markets.

The inspection program covers conditions on the farms where milk that finds its way to plants manufacturing butter, cheese, ice cream and evaporated milk is produced. The milk going to fluid markets is under the Agricultural department's inspection at all bottling plants and creameries as well as several thousand of these farm sources.

Up until a year ago when the accelerated farm inspection of milk for manufacture began, only a few such farms had been inspected. A large number still have not undergone official inspection.

"Many of these farms," said Mr. Skiver, "could stand much improvement in the methods used in cooling milk and in the care and maintenance of dairy equipment."

He said that in general good compliance with the Michigan dairy law has been attained upon the request of Department inspectors when deficiencies are pointed out.

Gasoline stored in above ground tanks over winter can gum up the works in your tractor. Best way to cut evaporation losses and staleness is to install a pressure valve, note MSC agricultural engineers, out.

...and GARDEN

START WORK ON NEW AGRICULTURE BUILDING AT MSC

Construction of the new animal industries building on the Michigan State College campus is under way.

Dean T. K. Cowden of the MSC School of Agriculture says the new structure will "fill a long standing need and help expand our services to Michigan agriculture."

The building will house the dairy, animal husbandry and poultry departments. It will contain, among other facilities, a creamery and a meats laboratory for both research and teaching.

There will be 17 research laboratories, 15 student labs, 22 classrooms, 7 lecture-recitation rooms, a 600-seat auditorium, 74 offices for the staff, graduate students and secretaries, 2 conference rooms and a reference and reading room.

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