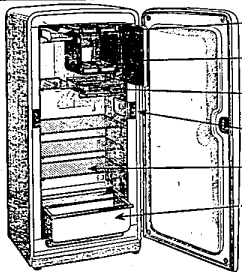


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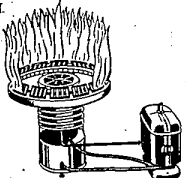
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Investment In Machinery Rises

The farmer of today wouldn't get very far with the power and machinery equipment of a generation or two ago—a team, a few horse-drawn tools and lots of hay-wire.

Machinery sections of farm account books on 615 general livestock farms in 45 Michigan counties were reviewed by Warren Vincent, Michigan State College agricultural economist.

Machinery investment on these farms almost tripled since the beginning of World War II. It averaged \$1,926 per farm in 1941—\$3,466 on July 1, 1949.

Higher priced new machines are being added to machine sheds in increasing numbers to replace manpower and horsepower, according to Vincent.

In 1949 there were 311 new machines costing more than \$1,000 purchased in the 615 farms studied. Of this total, 105 new tractors were bought at an average cost of about \$1,800; 31 new trucks at an average cost of \$1,500; 31 combines, averaging \$1,850; 22 balers, \$1,700; 15 forage choppers, \$1,270; and 6 of the farms added new corn pickers at an average cost of \$1,570.

New cars with an average farm share of more than \$1,000 were purchased on 59 farms. This excluded all new car purchases with smaller farm share inventory values. Most farmers in the study inventory only part of the original car cost to avoid charging personal use of the vehicle to the farm business.

Other machines costing over \$1,000 which were purchased less frequently included best harvesters, caterpillar tractors and irrigation equipment.

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SPRING PIG CROP DEPENDS ON CARE GIVEN TO SOWS

Just how profitable Michigan farmers' pig production will be this spring will depend largely on how well sows are managed and fed between now and farrowing time.

J. A. Hoefler, Michigan State College swine authority, says research has established that production performance of a sow is related to the quality of the ration fed during the gestation period.

He says the good hogman will make certain the winter gestation ration is balanced in energy, protein, minerals and vitamins.

Energy requirements can easily be met with corn or oats. Protein needs can be taken care of largely with soybean oil meal plus a small quantity of animal protein, such as meat scraps. The ration should include at least 15 per cent protein.

From 10 to 15 per cent of the ration should be dehydrated alfalfa meal to take care of the vitamin requirements. Mineral needs may be furnished by feeding a simple mineral mixture made up of equal parts of limestone, bonemeal and a trace mineralized salt. It can be pelleted or mixed into the ration at a level of 2 or 3 per cent.

A mature sow needs up to 1½ pounds of feed daily for each 100 pounds of weight. A growing gilt requires about 2 pounds of food daily per hundredweight—the extra feed to help her to gain size. Self-feeding can be practiced if the ration is bulked-up considerably with alfalfa and oats so as to reduce the fattening ability of the ration.

Adequate shelter with good ventilation to avoid the flu and a good supply of fresh water are necessary. Feeding the animals some distance from the shelter will force them to get some of the exercise they need, Hoefler explained.

All State Police Posts Now Have Cameras

Each of the 45 Michigan State Police posts and the eight district headquarters is now equipped with a camera complete with flash device.

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Efficient Use Of Fertilizer Important To Farmers In 1951

It may not be possible for every farmer to use the fertilizer he wants in 1951, so it will be increasingly important to make sure that fertilizer is used efficiently, J. F. Davis, Michigan State College soil scientist, advised this week.

One of the most practical ways of increasing the efficiency of fertilizer is by proper placement, he points out.

When fertilizer, especially phosphorus, is mixed thoroughly with the soil, a large amount of this ap-

plied phosphorus is "fixed" by the soil particles in such a way that plants cannot use the phosphorus. Generally speaking, soil containing a large amount of clay will "fix" more phosphorus than sandy soil, Davis states.

Placing fertilizer in a band reduces phosphate "fixation" and fertilizer is more effective. Fertilizer placed in bands near the seed is more accessible to the young plants than if placed otherwise. Placed an inch or two from the seed, there is no danger of injury to germination or to the young seedlings. Application of fertilizer through the fertilizer attachment on a grain drill is usually satisfactory for grain crops. The germination or "stand" of the small grains is not injured by fertilizer placed in contact with the seed unless used in larger amounts than is common.

For row crops and vegetable crops it is best to place fertilizer in bands, one to two inches to the side of and two inches below the level of the seed, providing rates of application do not exceed 500 to 700 pounds per acre. When amounts greater than this are used, the extra fertilizer should be applied either with a grain drill before planting or plowing under. Extension Bulletin No. 155, "Fertilizer Recommendations," obtainable at county agricultural agents' offices contains specific recommendations for applying fertilizer.

Donah and Bookout feel that every farmer should have an accurate check on his inventory values and financial condition. The new folder will make it easy for farmers to take annual inventories and prepare their own net worth statements. This information is especially useful in studying the farm business, setting up depreciation schedules for income tax, and as a basis for credit arrangements. It's worth a lot, for example, for a farmer to be able to show what he owes and owes when negotiating a loan.

Although intended primarily for those who are not already keeping farm accounts, the inventory and net worth folder can be used as a handy worksheet along with the account book, according to the economists.

Donah and Bookout say the start of a new year is a good time for the annual inventory and net worth check-up, but that any time is satisfactory.

A copy of extension folder F154, "Farm Business Inventory and Net Worth Statement," can be obtained from county extension offices or by writing to the bulletin office, Michigan State College, E. Lansing.

MSC Names State Police Coordinator

Charles F. Rhodes, former chief of police at Pontiac, has been named as coordinator of law enforcement training at Michigan State College.

Rhodes, a veteran of 39 years police experience, will head a new recruit and in-service training program for law enforcement personnel. The program is a cooperative project of the college, state law enforcement agencies, and professional and civic organizations.

With the beginning of the new project, Michigan becomes the third state in the nation to have a coordinated, statewide law enforcement training program.

Work will begin with a four-week recruit training program at the East Lansing campus. About 30 law enforcement officers, all with less than a year's experience, will receive training in fundamental police skills.

Bounty Payments Fall Again In December

State bounty payments on foxes, coyotes, bobcats and wolves tumbled down again in December and are down for the same month in 1949 as well.

December, 1950, payments of \$8,400 were for 1,178 foxes, 138 coyotes, 22 bobcats and one wolf as contrasted to \$13,620 paid in November for 1,730 foxes, 312 coyotes, 74 bobcats and six wolves.

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