

FARM FEATURES

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**Conservation Man
Readies "Hunting" Signs**

In contrast to the no hunting signs popping up more frequently in southern Michigan, Roy A. Russell is preparing more "open to hunting" signs.

Russell is conservation department manager of the over 2,800 acre Island Lake state recreation area east of Brighton.

TRY A CLASSIFIED AD

MSC To Publish Ag. Dictionary

Plans for an agricultural dictionary, to be published in Michigan State College's centennial year, 1955, have been formulated by an editorial board of college staff members.

Headed by John N. Winburne of the Department of Written and Spoken English, the board has made plans for the years of work involved. The work is supported by the All College Research Committee and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and publication will be by the Michigan State College Press.

Winburne first became aware of the need for such a volume in his work with foreign students at MSU. Adequate dictionaries covering other sciences existed; for agriculture there were only outdated and incomplete books, some published as early as 1797.

As the leading country in agricultural research, development, and education, American farm terms have assumed great importance, Winburne believes.

Both foreign and city-bred agricultural students are often puzzled by such common-place terms as middleburr, spring tooth harrow, and riding cultivator, he points out.

As general editor of the volume, Winburne has begun the task of gathering agricultural terms from all parts of the nation. Implement catalogues, books, agricultural bulletins, and other sources will be studied to find words for inclusion in the dictionary.

The task will be complex, Winburne believes. Terms related only to agriculture will be used. For example, "fence" has its agricultural meaning, but it may also imply sword play — such a meaning will not be included in the proposed agricultural dictionary.

Pasture Practice Effects Weeds



Sometimes weeds are no destructive that the use of chemicals may be desirable, but in most cases a steadily maintained program of mowdown improvement will yield all the weed control really needed.

No practice is more helpful than the use of fertilizer. Few weeds respond to fertilizer as well as do food storage crops, which soon crowd out less desirable plants. Even hawk-weed and cats-ear, which are turf formers themselves, are unable to compete in fertile soil. Their presence indicates impoverished soil. They survive because the soil is too poor to support their better. A simple application of superphosphate and nitrogen is often all that is needed to cause weeds almost to disappear.

All annual weeds, and most biennials, reproduce chiefly by seeds. Prevention of seed production is the first step toward eliminating them. Use of a mowing machine and if necessary, a scythe, in June and in August, is an inexpensive practice that yields very large returns.

Mowing prevents the weeds from spreading but may not kill them. Perennial weeds such as Canada thistle, broomsedge, and ironweed, are not killed by mowing any more than is alfalfa. Depending on the species, mowing must be accompanied by fertilizing, or by the use

of chemical weed killers.

With narrow, bitterweed and ragweed tend to send out new shoots from the base of mowed plants especially in wet seasons. Frequently these shoots form so close to the ground that a second mowing does not destroy them. To avoid this, the first mowing should be high enough to leave at least a 6-inch stubble. The new shoots then grow tall enough that the second mowing destroys them.

Control of the rate of grazing affects the weeds in a pasture quite as much as the grass, but in the opposite way. Both overgrazing and undergrazing tend to depress the grass and improve the weeds. The species of weeds may change, but the total quantity is likely to increase. So changing the rate of grazing may or may not change the weediness of the field. It may increase or decrease the species. But a change in the grazing rate plus the use of chemical weed killers and other good practices all taken together, usually result in better grass and fewer weeds.

FARM WOOD LOTS HAVE VITAL ROLE, U-M FORESTER SAYS

Much of Michigan's forest resources depends on farmforests. Careful management of farm wood lots, which make up a large part of the state's timber land, is important to "keep lumber coming" in future years, according to Leigh J. Young, professor of silviculture in the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources.

Wood lot cultivation has become forgotten farming in many cases, the professor says. Soil has deteriorated because many lots are grazed by cattle. Others have been cut up in a haphazard manner, with no regard for the trees. These practices have resulted in more and more stands of low grade trees with very little propagation of the more desirable species, the forester reports.

Rehabilitation of woods is a long job, but excellent assistance and suggestions can be secured by the interested farmer from the U. S. Forest Service, county foresters and the Soil Conservation Service representatives in Michigan.

U-M's Living Alumni Now Number 136,000

The University of Michigan now has 136,400 living alumni, according to the records kept at the Alumni Catalog Office on the campus.

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The Grist Mill

By ED ALCHIN
County Agricultural Agent

The United States Department of Agriculture has issued its production guides for farmers in the United States, Michigan, and specifically Oakland County. Of most concern to you are the Oakland County guides. The request is for an increase in corn of 4,400 acres, soybeans 200 acres, a slight increase in barley, a slight decrease in oats, with a decrease of 200 acres in potatoes.

Farmers in Oakland County are going to be faced with some very critical problems in trying to meet the goals set for the production of food and fibre in 1951. Not only will this be true in 1951 but may be true for years to come. Labor, machinery and fertilizer are going to be these problems.

Don't change your farm program radically. We are going into an era of intense production for dependent effort. Plant your crops where they are adapted — which means corn on the best, flat, heavier type of soil. Oakland County farmers can do their share with increased dairy and meat production.

Make your plans for 1951 and 1952 now. Do not sell down your livestock. Keep plenty of breeding stock on hand, get your seed and fertilizer now. Lay in necessary carry-over grains for feeding purposes. Don't wait.

Feed horses regularly as it aids digestion and promotes peace of mind in the animal, say Michigan State College animal husbandry men. Well-managed stables seldom vary feeding periods, more than a few minutes each day.

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