

## 17 Blazes Start 1951 Forest Fire Season

Seventeen first-of-the-season fires already have been put out by conservation department forest fire men.

Damage, all in the south third of the state, was held down to 277 acres. All except three of the blazes were in the 11-county Plain-field district.

Fire season did not start until early April last year.

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## See Good Prices For Field Crops

With spring planting time coming up, now's the time to shape up those final crop plans.

If you're still pondering over the prices of the various crops, here are some up-to-the-minute pointers on the farm crops outlook that may help.

C. E. Prentice, Michigan State College agricultural economist, says that with good management, maximum production of all crops except potatoes will be the goal this season. Prices will bump the potato ceiling for all storable commodities grown in Michigan. The seasonal price decrease at harvest time is expected to be less than normal.

Even with large carryovers of feed grains, grain prices will rise as corn advances to the parity level. Increased livestock numbers and higher livestock prices are adding to the demand for grain and concentrates, Prentice points out. The price of soybean oil, boosted by military demands, has already reached the current legal maximum even though the 1950 crop was the largest in history.

Large government holdings of dry edible beans have tended to hold prices down. But excessive stocks of Michigan beans of marketable quality are expected to disappear by 1951 crop harvest time. The crop support price will be 75 per cent of parity, but a price near 90 per cent of parity is expected in Michigan.

No support for potatoes is indicated, and acreage should be reduced. A 15 per cent cut has been requested in the U. S. 15 per cent for Michigan. Higher prices can be expected for the 1951 crop if these recommendations are followed, Prentice said.

## Grass and Brush Fires Endanger Wildlife

Persons planning so-called spring "clean-up" fires are asked by the conservation department to consider some of the serious consequences to wildlife.

Burning of dead grass and leaves in fields, swales and along roadsides does not "hasten the arrival of spring" but does destroy vegetation utilized by rabbits and ground nesting birds. Fence-row burning may force pheasants to nest out in meadows which are likely to be mowed before the young are able to leave. The same fire can shorten the life of the wire fence by several years.

For those who insist on the spring burning ritual, the department points out that burning permits are required as soon as the snow leaves the ground, creating general forest fire hazard conditions.

## Artificial Breeders Plan Annual Meeting

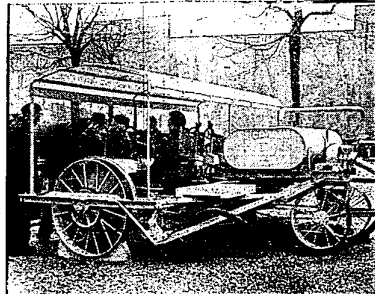
Representatives from nearly 25,000 Michigan dairy herd owners will meet at Michigan State College, East Lansing, March 29 for the seventh annual meeting of the Michigan Artificial Breeders Cooperative.

A. C. Baltzer, extension dairyman at MSC and secretary of the group, says the cooperative added 3,027 herds consisting of 21,179 cows during 1950.

Representatives will elect five directors at the meeting starting at 10:30 a.m. in Fairchild Theater on the MSC campus.

Michigan State College entomologists emphasize plowing old corn fields in the spring before May 15 to control corn borer. Plowing must be followed by careful cultivation that does not bring pieces of stalk to the surface.

Losing one hog to cholera costs as much as vaccinating many young pigs.



**MACHINERY FOR RED FARMS**—A Russian machine for planting tomato and tobacco plants was among the agricultural machinery from 15 European nations exhibited at the 23rd annual farm machinery exposition at Versailles Gate in Paris. The planter is operated by eight persons.

## Livestock Agency Shows Big Growth

By providing better livestock marketing facilities for 25,000 farmers and stockmen, Michigan's largest livestock cooperative has nearly tripled its volume of business in six years.

Don Stark, livestock marketing specialist at Michigan State College, points to studies made by MSC authorities as a help in bringing about this expansion. Studies made as long as ten years ago showed a tendency of decentralization of marketing problems.

During the past five years the Michigan Live Stock Exchange, after a quarter century doing business at the Detroit Stock Yards, has carried out an extension program. Business is now being done at Battle Creek, Portland and St. Louis in addition to Detroit.

Stark says these new out-state markets are owned and paid for by more than 900 livestock producers. The exchange leases these facilities from the farm-owners and operates markets at each of them.

Along with cooperation from Michigan State College in determining the possibilities from such out-state markets, help came from the Michigan Farm Bureau.



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## Blackhawk Soybeans In Short Supply

Farmers who wish to grow the new Blackhawk soybean should make arrangements to purchase their seed now, since only a small supply is available, advises Stuart Hiltchbrand, Michigan State College farm crops specialist.

Blackhawk has wide soil adaptation for Michigan and will mature wherever Earlyana variety grows. For sources of certified seed, contact your county agricultural agent or the Farm Crops Department, Michigan State College, East Lansing.

## Smelt And Perch Runs Still Not Started

Perch or smelt runs have not started yet, the conservation department is advising numerous inquirers.

First spring spawning runs normally get underway anytime from the last week of March to early April. Weather is the chief factor in advancing or retarding migrations.

## STATE FARM INSURANCE



Local Agency  
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33636 Grand River  
(U. S. 16)  
Phone 0757

## Seek Funds To Help Buy 4-H Club Center

Michigan 4-H Club members are out to raise \$5,000 toward the National 4-H Center located near the nation's capital in Chevy Chase, Maryland. A. E. Kettunen, state 4-H Club leader, says Michigan's share of the \$200,000 campaign is ten cents a member.

Apportioned on the basis of membership in Michigan that varies from less than \$7 to more than \$300 for the Michigan counties. Each county has received its quota. The recently purchased property was formerly the Chevy Chase Junior College, and is made up of five buildings on more than 12 acres of land. It will provide housing and dining facilities for national conferences for groups up to 300 persons.

Local groups are planning to raise the county quotas by several methods. Kettunen is also chairman of the National 4-H Foundation, a non-profit corporation set up to handle the property.

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## Keep Production Records On Ewes And Lambs

At lambing time this spring, pen the ewe and the new lamb separately and feed the ewe plenty of hay, but limit the grain for the first two days, advises H. A. Henneman, Michigan State College animal husbandry specialist.

Ear tag the lamb and keep a record of the ewe's production in wool and pounds of weaned lamb. These records are a great help in culling the poor producing ewes. On the third day after lambing, the ewe can receive one and one-half to two pounds of grain along with the roughage.



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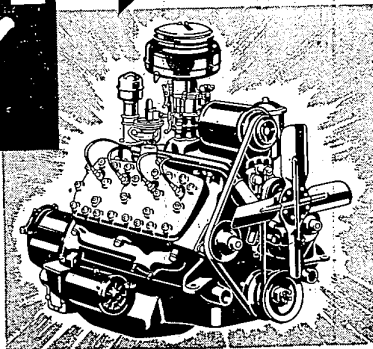
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