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FARM FEATURES

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FRUIT GROWERS MUST WATCH FOR RODENTS

Michigan orchardists are cautioned by T. A. Merrill, research associate in horticulture at Michigan State College, to be on the guard against tree damage by rabbits and mice.

Larger numbers of mice are on the loose this year, probably due to weather conditions ideal for their activity, and the peak of a four year cycle that seems to exist in relation to their increase.

Fruit growers are advised to use poison bait to combat mice. The prepared bait can be purchased in 10- and 25-pound bags, from the state distributors, the Grand Rapids Growers, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Place bait in the runways or in protected shelters that will permit mouse entrance. Tin cans, with the open end mashed in, are ideal shelters to lure the rodents to their death.

To protect trees from rabbits, use alcohol-resin repellent. This can be made at home by dissolving 7 pounds of finely powdered resin in a gallon of denatured ethyl alcohol. Do not apply heat, but dissolve for 24 hours, using a tightly stoppered bottle, that can be shaken frequently.

This repellent can be applied to the tree any time the bark is dry. One application will repel rabbits during the season. It is not effective against mice.



Dr. L. Carl Knorr, extension specialist in plant pathology at Michigan State College, operates the self-sterilizing rotary potato cutter which he devised. This new type cutting knife is designed to prevent the spread of ring-rot, which threatens the potato growing business in Michigan. The cutter will be on display as part of the Rural Progress Caravan when it visits this community. Dr. Knorr says that the machine can be made at home for a cost of about \$7.

BEST USE OF ALFALFA SEED IS URGED

Michigan farmers, faced with a limited supply of hardy alfalfa and rigid clover seed, may wish to consider several plans to extend the available supply, suggests Roy E. Decker, head of the Michigan State college farm crops department.

Seed from alfalfa grown in Argentina does not seem to be the answer, Decker asserts. Tests conducted by the farm crops department reveal such seed to be unadapted to Michigan conditions. These results are confirmed in tests also conducted by the Indiana agricultural experiment station.

In the face of this situation, which Mr. Decker believes is unlikely to improve soon, he suggests that growers make the best use possible of the limited seed supply. Use the best cutting practices in setting a new seedling such as sowing only on soil adequately supplied with lime. Have a firm, fine, seedbed, and use commercial fertilizer as recommended for the particular type of soil. The better the seedbed and care used in seeding, the less seed needed.

Mr. Decker believes that in the case of established stands, it may be a wise policy to keep such a stand longer than had been planned. The Michigan State College soil science department suggests that established stands be top-dressed early in the spring with at least 300 pounds per acre of a fertilizer high in phosphate and potash. Proper cutting also will aid in keeping the stand, except in the case of fields infested with bacterial wilt. If that occurs, there is little that can be done.

Mr. Decker also suggests that farmers might consider sowing either a combination of red clover, and timothy; or red clover, Alsike clover, and timothy.

Farmers To Get Free Parking

Through the courtesy of the Retail Merchants' Bureau of Pontiac two large parking lots on Water Street opposite the Army will be available for free parking all day on Tuesday, February 12.

The event is the Rural Progress Caravan which is a free show in the Army between the hours of 10 A. M. to 4 P. M. Over 100 Exhibits showing Labor-Saving Devices on the farms will be shown.

LOCAL MEN EXHIBIT NEW "GADGETS"

Karl D. Bailey, County Agricultural Agent, announces that entry of local exhibits continue to pour into his office. Latest gadgets to be shown at the Rural Progress Caravan Tuesday, February 12, include the following:

1. Howard Schuster, Farmington, Mich., Automatic device for cooling milk.
2. Leo DeConick, Walled Lake, Mich., Portable stock loading chute.
3. Alden Green, Walled Lake, Mich., Buck rake attachment to farm tractor for picking up brush in an orchard.
4. Leo Davis, Northville, Mich., Foot steering device for tractor operator to handle spray boom in orchard.
5. E. A. Chapman, Northville, Mich., Spray derrick for automatic spraying fruit trees.

SELECT PROTEIN MEAT SUBSTITUTES

When no meat is to be found at the market, choose other suitable protein foods as substitutes, suggests Mary Woodward, county home demonstration agent.

In this respect, Michigan is lucky, for she has the famous Michigan bean to furnish protein, iron and some of the vitamins contained in meat. A good, big serving of beans will easily pinch hit for a piece of steak or roast.

Eggs and milk also are good substitutes, and both seem to be plentiful at this time of year. Three eggs or three cups of milk provide about the same amount of protein as a generous serving of meat. Cheese, if used generously, makes a satisfactory protein dish. Three slices of bread contain as much protein as a hamburger, and the and soy flour in any cooked dish adds considerable protein.

And, not to be overlooked, is the abundance of turkeys and poultry in Michigan, and the availability of fish.

MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE RURAL PROGRESS CARAVAN AN EXHIBIT OF LABOR-SAVING DEVICES FOR THE FARM AND HOME TO BE SHOWN IN THE PONTIAC ARMY FROM 10 A. M. TO 4 P. M. ADMISSION AND PARKING FREE.

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