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TO ALL

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and

May your Holiday

be bright

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The Season's *best* to our friends

How well we remember those old
Fashioned Christmas dinners—

father at one end of the table; mother at the other end, and the children in between, wondering if father would ever get done carving the turkey. And what mince pies!

Wouldn't you like a Christmas like that this year of 1946? We hope that your Christmas is as much like that as the changing tides will permit, and that all the joys of the old days will abound.

LaSalle Wines & Champagnes, Inc.



We adults can learn much from our children—learn how to celebrate Christmas well. Let us turn back the clock this Christmas season of 1946 and get out of Christmas all the joy that children know when they hang their stockings up.

All together now for a big, glorious Christmas, topped off with our best wishes to all of you.

Farmington Mills

FARM FEATURES

MSC Caravan To Be In Pontiac January 29

Successful farming practices, which may be possible at a better home, is the thought behind the 1947 Rural Progress Caravan, which will be in Pontiac at the Army on January 27.

This event, sponsored by the extension service of Michigan State college, starts its three-month tour of lower Michigan in early January. Like the labor-saving caravan early this year, the 1947 caravan will carry about the state in two large trucks with trailers. It will be unloaded for one-day stands and then move to another county late in the evening.

George Amundson, chairman of the caravan committee, points out that the caravan now under production will feature remodeling and building of homes and farm buildings. What materials are still scarce and labor is high, the extension engineer at MSC says planning such work should come well ahead of actual building.

Many departments will be represented by specialists this year. It is believed that from 15 to 20 agricultural and home economics specialists will be with the caravan and be prepared to answer questions asked by the farm people.

Caravan day in each county becomes a community day in which people can get together and visit and exchange ideas.

County extension staffs in different counties are making arrangements for local exhibits and demonstrations at each of the stops.

The caravan will open in Ingham county on Friday, January 4. It will make its initial showing at the county highway garage at Mason.

LAMB PRICES MAY HOLD BUT CATTLE, HOGS COULD DROP

More favorable lamb prices, but probable declines in present high prices received for hogs and cattle in 1947 are predicted by Michigan State college animal husbandry and farm economics specialists.

The livestock outlook analysis was made by G. A. Brown and G. A. Brannaman of the animal husbandry department and D. H. Stark and M. E. Cravens of the agricultural economics department.

Meat supplies in 1947 appear adequate, although about two percent less than the 144 pounds per person in 1946. The supply, however, is 15 per cent above the 1935-1939 average. The tonnage of hogs, lamb and mutton slaughtered in 1947 is likely to be below, while beef and veal slaughtered may run higher than 1946.

The cattle market could become affected by a more-than-normal liquidation due to an economic or drought situation. The large number of cattle on farms is possible because of continued good crops and pasture conditions. A drought could result in heavy marketing and depressed prices. Feeder cattle at present are high and farmers are cautioned that lower prices are probable by the fall of 1947 because of an increased slaughter of cattle and hogs.

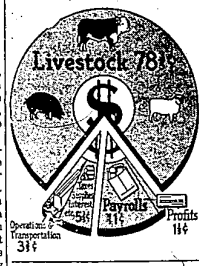
High hog prices and the large corn crop will result in a large pig crop in the spring of 1947, although fall litters this year are about 50 per cent below 1946. The spring pig crop may result in heavy fall marketing and cause a decline in the fall market. Economists, however, say present high levels may continue until late 1947. Farmers are advised to plan early litters and feed for earliest possible marketing.

A 14 per cent decline from previous numbers of lambs and sheep may result in more favorable prices in 1947 for lambs than other meat animals, the MSC specialists report.

Alfalfa a Legume

Alfalfa is a legume, a plant relative of the sweet pea. Pollination is usually without the help of insects—principally bees—that "trip" the blossoms and release the pollen-bearing parts of the flower. A field in colorful bloom is an indication that the bees working on the blossoms are not in sufficient number to set a good crop of seed. Department of agricultural scientists in their studies of alfalfa seed production — and the declines in yield in many areas in recent years — have calculated the bee visits required to set a good crop of seed — about 600 pounds to the acre. There are, on the average, about 3 alfalfa seeds to the pod, and about 225,000 fine seed to the pound. Experience indicates that it would require 75,000 bee visits, more or less, to set a pound of seed. An acre of seed with a 500 pound yield, then, would involve about 38,000,000 bee visits. The findings on field populations of tripping insects suggest that present-day low yields may be due in part to a deficient supply of pollinating insects.

The MEAT DOLLAR



FARMERS URGED TO CHECK FARM EQUIPMENT NOW

Next spring will be too late to get that tractor or other farm machinery in condition for another year of service. Karl D. Bailey, county agricultural agent, today advised farmers that December is the best month to start the overhauling and repairing of farm equipment.

Continual industrial shutdowns and curtailments make the long-awaited supply of new tractors and farm equipment still a question mark. The county agent believes that many who expected to have new equipment by next spring may have to make their present machines do another season's work.

Arrangements should be made with a local concern to get your tractor overhauled if it needs work before another season. You'll get the better job now — and Mr. Bailey says you'll be sure and have it ready in time for heavy spring work.

A few days spent checking over your farm equipment will prevent expensive shut-downs during the spring season. Cleaning the equipment before oiling or greasing may bring to light some needed repairs or replacements.

If you are using your tractor for winter work be certain the radiator is protected against freezing. And don't forget the water in those rubber tires, the county agent reminds.

Electro-Magnetic Rays
Television utilizes electro-magnetic waves which are cousins to light rays.

County DHIA Shows Progress

Dairy Herd Improvement Associations in Oakland County show much progress over a period of years according to Edmund Alchin, Oakland County's Assistant Agricultural Agent. Improved efficiency and economy of dairy production have resulted from membership in testing associations as shown by annual reports throughout the state.

The first dairy herd improvement association was established in Michigan at Fremont in 1906. Records for this first year of testing in this first association showed a total average production of 5336 lbs. milk, 216 pounds of butterfat. Comparing this record with our Oakland County Association records for 1946, we find nearly a 40% increase in herd averages over a period of 40 years with a 1946 total average of 8841 pounds milk and 344 pounds of butterfat.

Many factors contribute to this increased production as a direct result of membership in a testing association. First and foremost of these is the ability to cull out the poor cows in herds on farms as a result of knowing what they actually produce. Many farmers using the "old milk pail test" are fooled by animals which apparently give quite a volume of milk but whose test is very poor.

Another factor of great importance is the increased knowledge of feeding practices and pasture programs and their effectiveness when records on one herd can be compared with records on other herds in the association.

The third factor is another very important practice about which much information is obtained through association testing. Is the effectiveness of the breeding programs on the farms. Records may be compared comparing the daughter and their dam production and if the daughter's records are better than their dams then herdsman know they are following an effective breeding program.

Color Fastness
To test a fabric for color fastness, fasten a scrap of the test fabric along with the colored trimming to be used such as the tie tie or tape to a piece of white cloth. Then carefully wash and iron the sample. If the white cloth has picked up any color from the fabric or trimming the fading will be the same when the garment is made. Such is the advice of clothing specialists.

PLANT HORMONE REDUCES LOSS OF STORED POTATOES

Plant hormone chemicals, sprayed on potatoes put in storage, will retard sprouting and prevent losses in market value.

Dr. S. H. Wittwer, new addition to the horticulture faculty at Michigan State college, says experimental studies conducted over several years show other root crops will also be benefited.

The former University of Missouri scientist reports only one bean per bushel of the hormone (methyl ester of alpha naphthaleneacetic acid — if you must know) is necessary.

Since such a small amount is required, it is usually mixed with some other material before being applied. Shredded or confetti paper may be impregnated with a solution and then distributed over the potatoes, carrot, beets or other root crops in storage. The chemical in liquid form, may be applied in a very fine spray with a paint gun or other atomizer. A dust has also been developed.

Potato tubers used for seed, must not be treated.

Several commercial companies have developed shredded paper dust, and liquid preparations of the retarding chemical. The Dow Chemical company, Midland, Mich., is one of the pioneers in producing the hormone.

Dr. Wittwer says the cost of treatments will approximate from one to two cents per bushel for large lots and about five cents per bushel for small lots of only a few bushels of potatoes.

The horticulturist points out the chemical does not prevent sprouting in onions.

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★ Years may come and years may go but Santa Claus is with us forever. He's coming again this year, with a full sack. So sweep out your chimney and get ready for the jolly visitor, who has had special orders from us to bless your home with Very Merry Christmas.

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Thanks Friends MERRY CHRISTMAS 1946



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of Christmases past and gone gladden your Christmas celebration this year. We wish for you all the good things for which Christmas has always stood.

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A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

● THESE ARE DAYS WHEN WE ARE ALL IN A BIG HURRY TO GET

HOME, FOR THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME WHEN THE CHRIST-

MAS WREATH IS GLOWING IN THE WINDOW. WE ARE DUE

RIGHT NOW TO SAY OUR LITTLE PIECE—AN OLD REFRAIN, IT IS

TRUE, BUT AS WARM AND HEARTFELT AS THE FIRST TIME WE

EVER SAID IT—

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Sincere Wishes for a Merry Christmas

LET'S ALL BE HAPPY!

Christmas is likely to become too prosaic to many of us grownups, but to boyhood's eager eyes it is a time of preparation and expectancy... an enchanted season when the woodland is hushed and even ordinary tasks take on the glamor and joy of dragging home the Christmas tree. May your Christmas of 1946 be in this spirit.

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