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Hatcheries Adopt Plan To Improve Chicks

Each year, more and more Michigan hatcheries are participating in the national poultry and turkey improvement plans. The organization is sponsored by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and was designed to improve poultry by establishing progressive breeding standards, pullorum control and eradication classes.

H. C. Zindel, extension poultryman at Michigan State college, says that in 1945-46, only 48 of Michigan's 378 chicken hatcheries participated in the plan. In the 1946-47 season, a total of 38 hatcheries are cooperating. This represents an increase of 83 per cent in hatcheries participating in the program.

Slight progressive turkey hatcheries joined forces to operate under the National Turkey Improvement Plan in 1945-46. During the 1946-47 season, 54 hatcheries are cooperating. This represents a 200 per cent increase.

The Michigan State Poultry Improvement Association is the organization responsible for the supervision of both turkey and poultry plans. A new turkey organization was formed in November. Twenty-three charter turkey hatchery members who operate under the National plan formed the association.

Control of pullorum disease is one of the big goals of the Michigan State Poultry Improvement Association. In 1945 it started a program for sponsoring a pullorum law for Michigan. This law would make selling in or shipping into the state any chick, poult or breeding stock infected with pullorum a misdemeanor. The bill is being introduced in the 1947 legislature.

The National Plan has increased since its inception in 1935, to the point where 47 states are now cooperating. There are 3,252 hatcheries cooperating in the nation. These hatcheries account for about half of the total production of the United States.

Maple Sap Runs May Be Expected This Month

Warm weather in January started sap runs in some parts of Michigan. Ira Bull, extension forester at Michigan State college, says that February sap runs often yield 10 to 25 gallons of syrup.

Early tapping is one way that farmers can produce more syrup and sugar and increase their income.

Experiments with early tapping at the MSU sugar bush have shown that sap runs as well from the early taps as the later ones. A freeze after early tapping does not dry the sap holes. In fact, frequent freezes are necessary during the syrup season to produce a good run of sap.

The U. S. Weather Bureau will forecast sap weather over the Michigan State college station, W. K. R. 370 kilocycles, on every news cast during the day. These reports can be heard at 11:30 a. m.; 1:55 p. m.; 4:55 p. m. and 6:45 p. m.



Bio-physicist H. G. Barrett of department of agriculture places hen in respiration calorimeter to measure intake of oxygen and output of carbon dioxide and heat.

Guernsey Cow Sets State Record

Charles E. Sorenson, Farmington, has made a state champion record on his registered Guernsey cow, Cesar Golden Jewel. Her production of 2837 pounds of milk and 575 pounds of butterfat is the highest record in the state made by a Junior three year old milked three times daily for 235 days while on test and carrying a calf.

The sire of this cow, Cesar Golden Max, has nine daughters and one son in the Performance Register of the American Guernsey Cattle Club.

Must Plan Pasture Program, Specialist Says

The shortage of adapted alfalfa seed may mean that Michigan farmers may have to do a little planning for their pastures this summer. This is the opinion of C. M. Harrison, farm crops specialist at Michigan State college.

Harrison advises farmers with old fields of alfalfa or alfalfa-brome that are still in fairly good shape to consider these fields carefully. They may be better management to leave them for another year rather than gamble on the chance of securing new seedlings from unadapted seed. The use of non-hardy alfalfa seed from the southwestern United States, Argentina, or South Africa will only result in a reduction of stand or winter-killing of the whole stand.

Only seed produced in Michigan, or the northern or central United States should be used.

COUNTY POULTRY RAISERS ELIGIBLE FOR CONTEST

Oakland County poultrymen will compete with poultry breeders in ten northwestern states in the 1947 phase of the nationwide Chicken-of-Tomorrow program with more than 3,000 poultry raisers from this county eligible to enter the competition, according to D. D. Slade, chairman of the National Chicken-of-Tomorrow contest committee.

"All that is required for Oakland County poultrymen to become a part of this important breeding program is a flock of 50 birds hatched April 23," Slade said. "Poultrymen entering the contest are urged to contact J. M. Moore, extension poultryman, Michigan State College, East Lansing, chairman of the contest committee in this state."

Aimed at developing chickens with improved, meaty characteristics, the contest carries a \$5,000 grand prize in 1948 provided by A & P Food Stores and \$5,000 in regional prizes. "The top award will go to the poultry breeder who develops the most improved meat-type chicken."

Slade urged Michigan poultrymen to continue their efforts to develop superior meat-type chickens which, he said, are paying increased dividends to the entire state. He pointed to the Chicken-of-Tomorrow contest as an outstanding example of the poultry industry's determination to provide consumers with better chicken dinners.

"The importance of poultry farming in Oakland County, Slade said, is reflected in the latest report from the Census Bureau which shows that 75 percent of the county's farmers received income from poultry. These producers, according to the report, have more than 463,000 chickens and sell nearly 1,500,000 dozen eggs.

M. S. C. CONFERENCES OF INTEREST TO COUNTY FARMERS

Michigan State college has many conferences of interest to Michigan farmers scheduled during February and March. County agricultural agent Karl D. Bally announced today that farmers in this locality may find some of the following meetings of interest:

February 21-22 — Gladolas conference.
 March 5 — Michigan Horse Breeders' conference.
 March 4-5-7 — Beekeepers' conference.
 March 12-13 — Farm Builders' conference.
 March 20-21 — Annual Future Farmers of America State conference.
 March 27 — Michigan Artificial Breeders' Cooperative conference.

Speakers for these conferences will include Michigan State college staff members and Michigan and outstate leaders in the various fields.

TREAT SEEDS TO CUT LOSS FROM FUNGUS DISEASES

Treating seeds is one way Michigan farmers can cut losses from smut, blight, rot and various other fungus diseases.

County Agricultural Agent Karl D. Bally says that treated seed usually gives higher yields because less grain is lost due to disease.

New Improved Ceresan is one material to treat seed grain with this spring. It should be applied at the rate of one-half ounce per bushel for all small grains.

There are many different ways of treating the grain. Some farmers run grain through auger elevators so that the auger will mix the Ceresan with the seed. Or, with a combine, the seed can be passed through it and the combine auger will mix the seed and the Ceresan. Farmers can make their own seed treating equipment with an old oil barrel. Plans for this treatler can be obtained at the county agricultural agent's office. Ask for Extension Bulletin 176.

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26,466 Street Lights

It's EASY enough to count street lights — and, if you were to count all the street lights operated and maintained by Detroit Edison, you would find that there are at least 26,466. Keeping them all clean and lighted is considerably harder.

Regular inspection and patrolling helps, but just looking at them isn't enough. About twice a year, all the lamp bulbs are replaced by ladder crews. By replacing lamps before their rated life is completed, your street lights are made just that much more dependable. Glassware on the lights is replaced at least twice a year (four times in some manufacturing localities) so that it can be washed thoroughly in our warehouse.

Automatic switches, transformers and the miles of feeding circuits need regular attention, too. Edison street light patrols cruise about after dark to report burned out or damaged lamps. Trained crews stand ready to go into action as fast as emergencies are reported.

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