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FARM FEATURES

Soil-Leveling Rod On Drag



Clyde Downes, Ithaca, Mich., is backed by farm labor specialists of the Michigan State college extension service when he says it's easy to level a field and break the lumps by attaching a solid one-inch rod behind a spring-tooth drag.

A corrugated roller is not always available or may pack the soil too much. A rod a little longer than the width of the drag, attached to smooth behind by two lengths of chain, will leave the seeded almost as smooth as a garden. If the operator attaches the chains high on the drag and drives at fairly high speed, the rod tends to cut along the surface with a little extra power required. The two chains can be attached to the rod by bolts through drilled holes or by welded clips.

When the soil is rather wet, a 1/2-inch ordinary water pipe may be efficient.

Bailey Urges Farm Chore Planning

Chore planning to reduce labor requirements is especially important when help is short, says Karl D. Bailey, county agricultural agent.

It takes a little paper and pencil work to plan chores and eliminate unnecessary steps, but the time saved will be well worth the effort.

Mr. Bailey suggests two good ways to improve your chore routine. One of them is by comparing your chore routine with those used by other farmers. It's hard to find a farm that doesn't have one or two home-made labor saving devices. Maybe your neighbor's method won't work on your farm, but it might suggest an idea that could be worked out to good advantage.

The second method takes a little more time, but generally gives the best results. Think first of the jobs on the farm that require a lot of work and then follow these steps for each job:

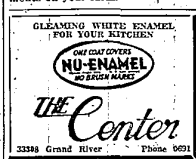
1. Break the job down, listing each separate operation.
2. Question your method of doing each operation on your list.

3. Make notes of undesirable points in your present method and list possible changes that occur to you.

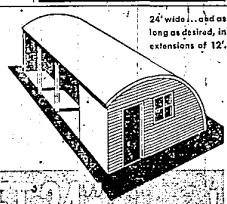
4. Give a fair trial to any ideas that appear workable.

It's the little things that can be eliminated that make the big savings in work requirements. Putting the feed box on wheels, mixing supplements with grain when grinding, painting marks on the scoop to measure grain — these are all examples of time-savers.

Records show that the average Michigan farmer spends 150 hours each year caring for a dairy cow, 30 hours for a brood sow, and 150 hours for each 100 hens. Some farmers use twice this much time — others half as much. Agent Karl D. Bailey suggests chore planning to reduce these time requirements on your farm.



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Guernsey Cow Sets Record

A daughter of the registered Guernsey sire, Cesar Maxine's Penwyn, owned by Charles E. Sorenson, Cesar Farms, Farmington, has completed an official Advanced Register record. She is Cesar Penwyn's Bright Honor which produced 1955 pounds of milk and 542 pounds of butterfat on three times daily milking for 355 days while on test, starting test as a Junior two year old. She was milked 1689 times during the test.

Cesar Maxine's Penwyn has twenty-three sons and daughters in the performance Register of The American Guernsey Cattle Club. This record was supervised by the Michigan State College and reported to The American Guernsey Cattle Club for approval and publication.

M.S.C. Folder Compares Hybrid Corn Varieties

Farmers who are wondering what corn hybrids to plant this year will find the 1947 edition of the Michigan State College extension folder F-67, "Corn Hybrids Compared," helpful.

The M.S.C. folder lists early, mid-season, and late corn hybrids that have been tested in various parts of the state. Yields of the different hybrids are reported both on an average of the past two years (1945-1946) results and an average of "all years", if entered before 1945.

Yields in bushels per acre of ear corn and the percentage of average moisture in the sample ears at harvest time are also listed.

By comparing the hybrids, farmers can choose those they think best suited to their location and their corn needs.

The folder is available from county agricultural agents.

SPECIALIST URGES USE OF PORTABLE HOG COTS

Portable hog cots provide several advantages compared to the large, stationary hog houses.

W. N. McIlhenny, swine specialist in the animal husbandry department at Michigan State College, recommends the portable hog cots for several reasons.

First, they provide better sanitation. The portable hog cots can be moved to new pastures which are free from worms and disease infection.

Second, construction costs are lower per animal housed.

Third, a large outlay of cash is not needed because the portable units can be added as the business expands. This is particularly important for the person starting in the hog business on a small scale.

Fourth, sows can be required to take exercise in the winter by changing the location of the cots.

Fifth, squealing pigs in one nest do not disturb the other sows as they do when central farrowing houses are used.

Extension bulletin 102, "Portable Hog Cots", gives construction directions for this type of hog house. It can be obtained from county agricultural agents.

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And now a word of gratitude to our friends who have patiently waited for the new machines they need. As most of our customers are aware, International Harvester has done everything possible—and some things that seemed impossible—to maintain and increase production.

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