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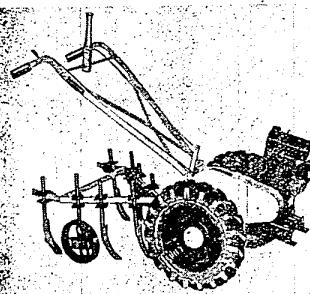
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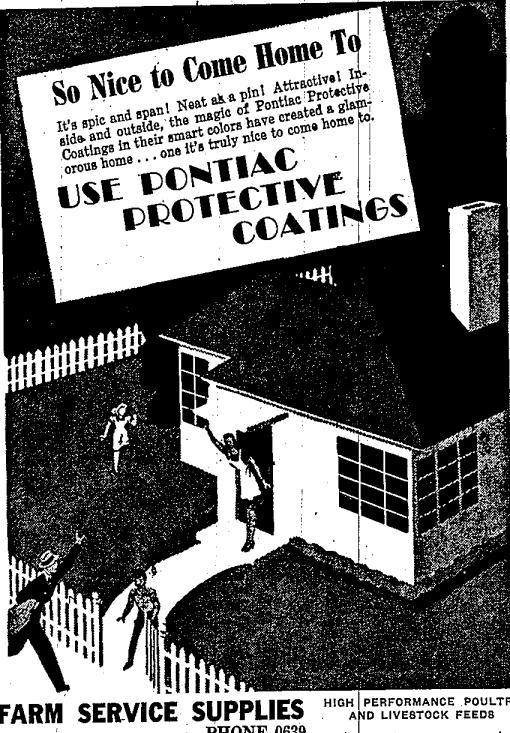
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# FARM FEATURES

Forest Fires Now  
Number 575 A Day

Every year America's forests and woods and ranges suffer an average of 210,000 fires... 575 a day. Extension foresters at Michigan State college urge extreme caution this year when timber and wood products are so desperately needed.

Michigan, in 1881, was the scene of one of the most damaging fires in the nation's history. One million acres of timber were lost, property loss was set at two million dollars, and 128 people were killed. Already, Michigan has had its first forest fire in 1947.

Farmers who intend to burn off crop land that is near wooded areas are urged to practice extreme caution. Plowing around areas to be burned will help to reduce spread of fire. Dry or windy weather should be avoided as days for burning. Plenty of tools and help should be available in case the fire gets out of control.

Records show that care will prevent 9 out of 10 forest fires. Do your part by observing the safety rules.

**Air Compressor Is Handy Farm Tool**



An old auto compressor comes in handy for a lot of farm jobs according to Wayne Williams, of Cedar Springs. He uses his compressor to air small electric motors so it will be ready to use for spraying, applying to spray, and for small motors and farm seed tools, as well as for painting. A pipe, bolted to the motor base, sets into two notched pieces of angle iron, which are bolted to the wooden base, to hold the portable motor in place.

ONION JUICE USED  
TO STEP-UP EFFECT  
OF WEED KILLERS

Surplus or cull Michigan onions may be put to use in stepupping the potency of commercial weed killers as a result of research of two Michigan State College Experiment Station horticulturists. Dr. E. H. Lucas and Dr. C. L. Hammer have found that onion juice, when especially treated, increases the strength of 2, 4-D from 10 to 20 times. It means that a regular 2, 4-D solution, when the treated onion juice is added, will not only do a more thorough job of weed control, but also cover a greater area.

V. R. Gardner, director of the Michigan State college agricultural experiment station, sees great possibilities in the findings. "Although the studies made are only preliminary, there is reason to believe that the cost of materials for 2, 4-D application to a given area for weed control can be greatly reduced. That will make chemical weed control possible for many crops and in many areas where heretofore it has not been practicable."

Dr. Lucas and Hammer experiments show that extracts from some vegetables have the opposite effect, that of lowering the killing power of the 2, 4-D salt. Red beet extract showed definite power of lessening the destructive action of the weed killer. Approximately 20 different extracts from fruits and vegetables were tested.

With the cooperation of the Eastern Regional U.S. Research laboratory at Philadelphia, Pa., experiments are being conducted to isolate the part of the onion juice which has the powerful effect of increasing the potency.

REPORT DECREASE  
IN FARM TENANCY  
IN MICHIGAN

Farm tenancy, never high in Michigan, decreased from 1940 to 1945 according to the latest United States census report. E. B. Hill, head of the department of farm management at Michigan State college, points out that 17 per cent of all farmers in Michigan in 1940 were tenants. In 1945, only 12 per cent, or 21,000 farmers, were tenants.

Higher rates of tenancy are found in the more productive land areas. Southern Michigan counties are the state's highest tenancy rate.

Land owned by non-tenants in the northern Michigan counties have less than 5 per cent tenancy. Otsego, with less than one percent tenancy, has the lowest rate in the State.

Although the number of farm tenancies decreased from 1940 to 1945, the amount of land operated by non-owners has changed very little during this period. In 1940 about 28 per cent of Michigan's farm land was operated by non-owners. In 1945 this figure was about 27 per cent.

Land operated by farm managers increased about 30 per cent in the same period. In 1945, there were about 1,000 farms listed as being operated by farm managers. The average size of farms so operated was about 400 acres.

The greatest increase has been in the number of part-owners. Farmers in this classification own some land in rental, additional land from neighbors. From 1940-45, the number of part-owners has increased 43 per cent. There has been a 27 per cent increase in the number of part-owners.

Don't Neglect Dairy  
Herd In Spring Rush

Spring work — plowing and planting and the many other things that have to be done often means that the dairy herd may be neglected.

Earl Weaver, head of the dairy department at Michigan State college, says that neglecting proper milking practices can often cause a mastitis flare-up in the herd. In changeable spring weather, cows may be left out of the barn in the lot too long and get udders chilled, resulting in trouble for the dairyman!

Field work may mean that time spent in cleaning milking machines is lost. Higher bacteria counts and low quality milk can result from poor dairy sanitation. Weaver believes that to care for the cow, the cow is a poor economy and can eventually lower farm income.

Caution Necessary When  
Using Spray and Dust

Dusts and compounds that are used to control plant diseases and pests may be poisonous. F. W. Roth, farm safety specialist at Michigan State college, advises farmers to follow the manufacturer's directions in handling, mixing, and applying poisonous materials.

Sprays and dusts of a poisonous nature should be stored in strong, leak-proof containers out of the reach of children or animals.

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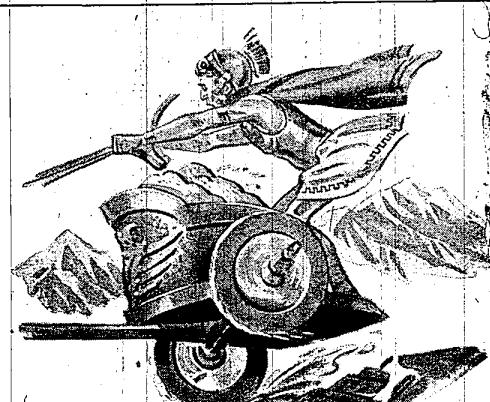
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