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# FARM FEATURES



### Good Farm Equipment Helps Save Crops

RACINE, WIS.—Record rains throughout the middle west threaten a shortage of fresh vegetables, plus loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars in other crops to farmers two to five weeks behind in planting, W. H. Ebling, Wisconsin agricultural statistician, C. J. Brown of Michigan, Leslie Carl of Iowa and Lloyd Cutler of Indiana, reported crops from 5 to 75 per cent late in planting. Ebling added a cheerful note, however, saying in view of the bad weather and delays, that Wisconsin fields look surprisingly good. He attributed it to good farm equipment, which enabled farmers to get a lot accomplished in the rare instances of good weather.

Potato quality and yield can be increased by good seed properly planted, says H. C. Moore, MSC potato specialist.

When spraying with DDT, do not allow the solution to come in contact with food or water intended for humans or livestock.

### Breeders Co-op Announce Holiday

"The Michigan Artificial Breeders Cooperative announces a vacation and holiday for the central bull stud and the 95 local insemination managers of ABAs that are conducting the business in 48 counties," says Wesley Mahaffy, President.

"The program," he says, "has been conducted without a break for three and one-half years and the 95 insemination managers conducting the business in the locals will get a few days well deserved vacation."

The vacation will occur August 25 to September 2, according to A. C. Baltzer, Extension Dairyman, Michigan State College, and it is believed the 9,000 farmers using the service will agree that the vacation for both the field managers and the bull stud is a good thing.

According to A. C. Baltzer this is at the season of the year when the least number of cows are bred and it coincides with the season of low or values in semen production by bulls, brought on chiefly by warmer summer weather.

Shipments by the M.A.B.C. are made regularly three days a week and this short vacation of ten days will cut out only four shipments, including Labor Day holiday. Shipments will start again Wednesday, September 3, according to F. W. Aitchin, Assistant County Agricultural Agent.

"This vacation will result in just a few cows not being bred, but we believe our cooperators will adjust their breeding program so that no cows will be bred too late," said Insemination Managers Norris Walls, Association No. 2 and Glen Robinson, Association No. 1.

### STORED HAY NEEDS PERIODIC CHECKS TO PREVENT FIRES

The grim fact that Michigan farmers lose an estimated \$250,000 each year from fires caused by spontaneous ignition of hay is important at this time of year, points out F. W. Roth, farm safety specialist at Michigan State College.

A few precautions can help cut the danger of hay fires. Hay should be well cured. Its moisture content should be less than 25 per cent. Loose and chopped hay should be evenly distributed in the mow.

Heating of the hay takes time and the hay should be checked occasionally for two months after it is put in the mow. A hay prod thermometer can be made very inexpensively and will give a good check of the temperature of the hay. The outfit consists of ten feet of one-half inch electrical conduit with an oak or ash point on one end to make driving into the hay easy. Six one-quarter inch holes should be punched in the conduit above the point. A dairy thermometer on a string is then put into the conduit. A rubber pad at the bottom of the tube will keep the thermometer from breaking.

To use the prod with the thermometer inside is inserted into the hay and left 3 to 5 minutes. The thermometer is then pulled up with the string and read immediately. If read at once, the temperature drop in the thermometer will not exceed 1 or 2 degrees F.

If the temperature reads 160 degrees F., the hay should be checked several times a day. At 180 to 190 degrees F., check often and get assistance if it should rise any higher. Don't work in the mow alone.

### Bailey Gives Tips On Farm Safety

Michigan's harvest machines will soon be in full operation bringing greatly increased hazards to life and limb of farmers. Now is the time for each farmer to make definite plans for safety in his harvesting operations, declares Karl D. Bailey, county agricultural agent.

Records of the National Safety Council show that farm accidents become more frequent during the harvesting season than during any other period of the year. Harvesting machinery with its high speed, shifting, belting and gears, together with its cutting mechanism, increases the chance for serious accidents.

The fundamental step in the safe operation of harvest machines is to put them in good condition before the harvest begins. The following suggestions point out the important precautions that should be taken to insure safety during the harvest:

1. Stop completely all machinery before oiling, adjusting or unclogging it.
2. Safety guards and shields should be kept in place at all times while the machinery is in operation.
3. Floppy or ragged clothing, which catches easily in moving machine parts should not be worn.
4. Operate machines at a reasonable speed. Start smoothly, turn corners slowly.
5. Rough or hilly ground calls for reduced speed.
6. Avoid driving too closely to the edge of ditches or embankments.
7. Avoid jumping off a machine before it has come to a full stop.
8. Small children are definitely out of place around harvesting machinery.

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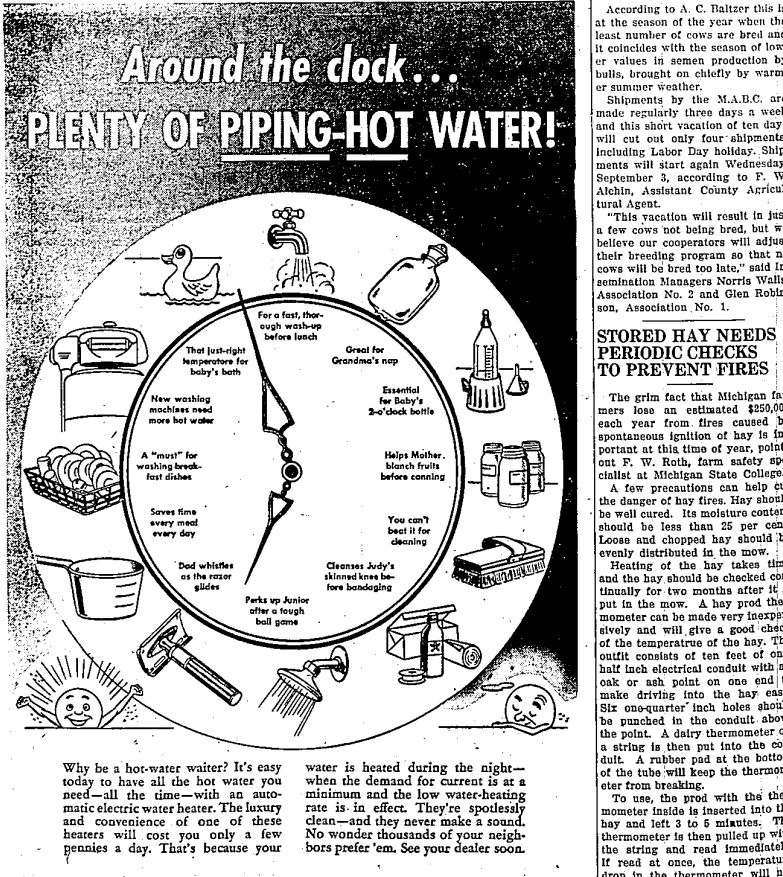
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