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FARM FEATURES

Bids for U. S. Poultry Honor



Second Michigan finalist in National Chicken-of-Tomorrow contest to develop a superior meat fowl is Charles Dolan (right), East Lansing breeder of New Hampshire. Named an alternate last fall, he qualified to compete for \$7,000 to be awarded in June by A&P Food Stores when one of the 40 original finalists was forced out of the three-year breeding program, according to notice from H. L. Shrader, senior extension poultryman, USDA, Washington, and chairman of contest rules and procedure. The 720 eggs entered by Dolan at the George (Dah) growing test hatched 609 strong chicks, a percentage of 84.58. Above, he receives certificate of quality from Shrader for placing seventh in 1947 regional contest. This picture was taken at a dinner in East Lansing last fall at which Lloyd Tice of Barryton, state winner and first Michigan finalist, and other contestants were honored. National winners will be announced June 24.

Karl Bailey Urges Treating Of Seed

While the cost of treating seed before planting is small, its results are strikingly effective, especially when diseases are present, reports county agricultural agent Karl D. Bailey.

In some cases, it has been found that yields have been increased from 10 to 50 per cent by proper treating.

For this reason, the agent believes that no farmer in Oakland county should take the chance of planting any seed, except those legumes which are inoculated, without first treating properly.

Grain diseases such as the new blight and root rot disease of oats, stinking smut of wheat, covered smut of barley, the oats smut and certain root rot diseases of small grain, including corn, may be controlled during the germination and seedling stage by using the proper seed treatment.

Proper seed treatment means using the new improved Ceresan at the rate of one-half ounce per bushel for oats, wheat, barley and other small grain.

Semenan, Jr., or Spergan at one and one-half ounces or Arsan at an ounce per bushel are recommended for field corn. Commercially processed hybrid seed corn usually is treated before it leaves the seed house. Loose smut of wheat and barley are not controlled by chemical treatment.

Treatment should be done at least a week before seeding time. Caution should be taken not to use new seed treatments that have not been properly tested.

Turkeys Need Room In Brooder House

High prices for turkey poulters make it important to treat them with care, advises Charles Reed, extension poultry specialist, at Michigan State College.

Poulters should not be crowded in brooder houses, he states. A colony brooder house with dimensions of 10 feet by 12 feet or 9 by 14 feet will house about 150 poulters for the first eight weeks if a sun porch of equal or larger size is available when the birds are old enough to go outside. If no sun porch is available, a house of this size will accommodate 125 poulters.

Overcrowding, the specialist reports, usually results in poor feathering, uneven growth, feather picking, and possible disease resulting in higher mortality.

MSC wiring specialists advise posting a diagram of your wiring circuits to your fuse box to help spot the trouble when a fuse blows.

Michigan State college animal husbandry specialists advise rotation of pastures each year to keep pigs on clean ground.

County Agent Urges Farmers To Plan Tractor Fuel Needs Now

County agricultural agent Karl D. Bailey says that farmers should be making plans now for their spring tractor fuel needs.

The fuel situation is expected to be quite tight this spring when field work gets into full swing.

The agent says that two steps can help ease the fuel oil shortage:

1. Keeping tractors in good running order with periodic tune-ups. This could save as much as 10 per cent on tractor fuel consumption.
2. Advise tank wagon salesman in advance of needs. Help the oil industry to channel the right products to the right place at the right time.

The county agent joined with oilmen to urge that farmers fill their storage tanks whenever fuel is available, and, if possible, provide additional storage. If orders are placed with dealers now for delivery anytime when supplies and roads permit, it will help build up a stockpile of fuel against possible extreme shortages.

Although not too plentiful, some dealers may have storage tanks available. These can be used for storage of gasoline on the farm.

Every farm rat eats an average of a bushel of grain a year and destroys another bushel.

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