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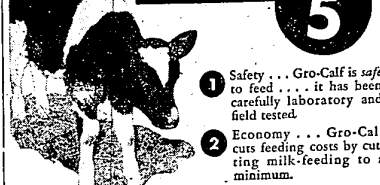
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Bailey Gives Tips On Corn Fertilizer

The question of corn fertilization comes up each year, reports Karl D. Bailey, county agricultural agent. According to word received from A. G. Weidemann, soils research specialist at Michigan State college, the value of commercial fertilizer applied directly for corn is very dependent on weather, moisture, and temperature.

With favorable weather conditions in July and August, commercial fertilizers often give favorable results. If applied at sowing time, fertilizer causes a rapid early growth but increases the yield of stover which draws heavily on the soil moisture supply. When moisture is lacking the corn suffers because of the unusually large early growth of stover and the grain yield is reduced.

A well fertilized rotation of small grain seeded to clover or some other legume that will produce a good soil helps promote better yields of ears and less stover in average seasons. Fertility produced in this way becomes available more slowly, retarding early growth, depressing the yield of stover, and conserving moisture until the time when the ears are forming.

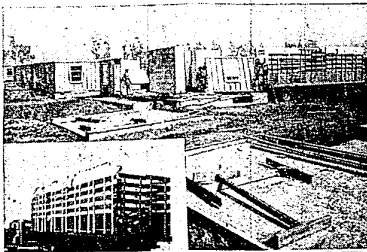
If corn has to be planted on soil where the fertility has not been built up to a high level, fertilizer may be advisable. An application of 150 to 200 pounds of 2-12-2, 2-16-8, or 4-12-8 in the row on heavier soils such as silt loam or clay loam is recommended. On sandy or light sandy loams 4-12-8 or 2-12-12 can be used. A lighter row application supplemented by 200 pounds drilled soil or plowed under would be better in seasons of low rainfall.

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Grass Days Program Planned For June 11 in Oakland County

The Grass Day program set up by the Michigan State college extension service and local committee will bring Oakland county farmers complete information on hay and grass management, reports Karl D. Bailey, county agricultural agent.

An increase in the amount of grass farming in Oakland county would be desirable, the agent believes. The Grass Day program has been set up to show the important advantages of grassland farming. Grassland farming is a phase of agriculture that has been neglected in the years of increased crop production, agricultural authorities believe. A well balanced system of farming, however, calls for satisfactory amounts of grass and legumes to feed livestock and to maintain fertility of the soil.

The program has been set for June 11 on the Keith Middleton farm, located 2 miles east of Lake Orion in Oakland county. Extension specialists from Michigan State college prepared seedlings of various grass and legume crops there last fall and this spring. These crops will be used in demonstrations of crop harvesting and to show how such crops can be used in erosion control.

Other demonstrations planned

for the Grass Day include weed control, gully control, and effective use of forage. A large exhibit of machinery is expected for the display. Dealers will bring in new models of field balers, crops blowers, forage harvesters, and similar devices so that farmers may inspect them.

MSU extension specialists will be on hand to explain the various demonstrations and to tell farmers how similar grass programs can be established on other farms. County agent Bailey believes Oakland farmers will gain much information at this all day event.

Firebreaks Urged For Tree Plantings

Christmas tree and other forest tree plantations need firebreaks now, advises L. A. Carter of the Michigan State college forestry department. Spring brings the greatest hazard to these plantations because last year's accumulation of dead grass and brush has not been removed.

Firebreaks should be made by plowing or discing a strip at least eight to ten feet wide all around the plantation. A firebreak is effective only when all flammable material is removed or plowed under. Plantations larger than an acre should be cut into blocks by secondary firebreaks.

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Grass And Silage Advised For Cows

Dairy farmers can achieve more even production of milk by timely planning, reports A. C. Baltzer, extension dairyman at Michigan State college. Practices he advises include seeding special crops and using more grass silage. The number of days the cows have to remain under barn conditions can be reduced by two weeks by using special seeding of ryegrass, bromegrass, sudan grass, and extra fodder corn. Grass silage made from bromegrass, sudan grass, and other grasses is also a good source of feed.

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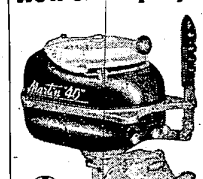
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CHECK BEAN SEED BEFORE BUYING, SPECIALIST WARNS

The proof of good bean seed is the crop it produces, but Herbert Pettigrove, Michigan State college farm crops specialist, says there are some signs that will help to identify good bean seed before planting.

Bright seed having good color and lustre indicates healthy seed which should make strong bean plants. Discolored seed may be caused by weather. Weathered beans sometimes do not germinate. If conditions are unfavorable, the seed may germinate but the plant will be weak it grows slowly.

Frost may cause a yellowing of the bean which usually severely weakens or kills the embryo in the seed. Bacterial wilt may cause yellowed seed, but such seeds are generally smaller than the average run of beans. Beans carrying these characteristics are not good seed beans in most cases.

Yellow or dark spots or yellow streaks in the seed coat indicate bacterial blight disease. They may carry the disease to the field and be a source of infection if the weather is favorable.

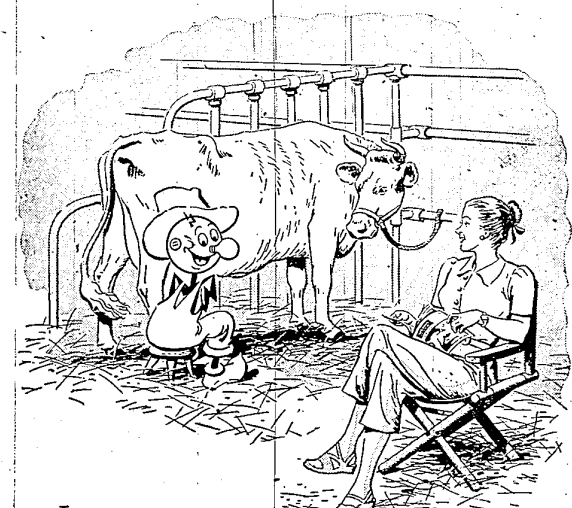
Pettigrove advises careful inspection of even good looking seed to see if there are fine checks in the seed coat. The checking of the seed coat may have broken the growing tip off the bean. Seed like this either rots in the ground or produces baldhead, a condition that retards growth.

When bean seed is purchased, careful scrutiny will help in choosing good seed. Certified seed, the specialist points out, is always a good buy since it has been carefully inspected before certification.

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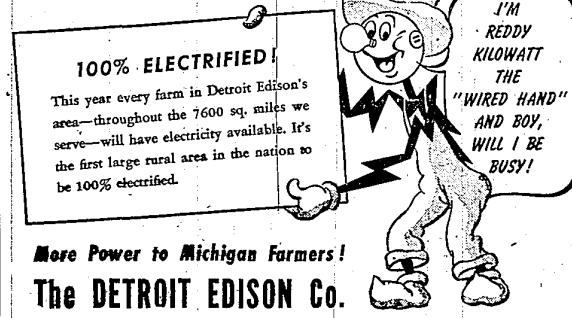
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