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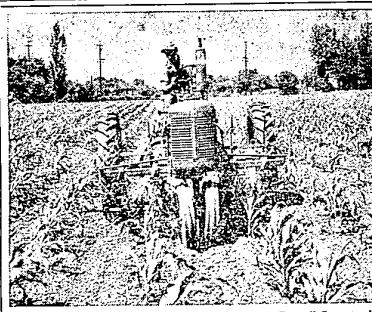
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FARM FEATURES

Meet Your Michigan

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MICHIGAN FEATURE SERIES prepared by the MICHIGAN TOURIST COUNCIL, No. 11

POULTRY DISEASE VACCINATION NOT ALWAYS EFFECTIVE

Sod Waterways Make Good Spring Farm Job

Newcastle disease is something that no poultry farmer can hope to keep out of their flocks. A question to be decided is whether to vaccinate this spring to help cut the risk of disease losses.

H. J. Stafseth, head of the department of bacteriology and public health at Michigan State College, says that it is a problem that must be decided on the individual basis. If Newcastle is prevalent in the area, it is probably wise to vaccinate. On the other hand, farmers in the areas where Newcastle is not a problem often decide to take the risk and not vaccinate.

Vaccination of chicks that are three weeks old will be unsatisfactory if they come in contact with the disease after the injection. To get "takes" from the vaccine, all passive immunity which may have been carried from the hen, through the eggs to the chicks, must have disappeared.

All chicks are immune for two to four weeks after they come from eggs laid by hens or have been vaccinated or have been vaccinated. Dr. Stafseth cautions that it should not be done until the chicks are at least four and preferably five weeks old.

Insect specialists say that Michigan will possibly have a grasshopper problem this summer. Should the pests come as expected, county agricultural agents will be notified of proper control methods to help farmers combat the threat to crops.

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