

FARM FEATURES

Plan Fruit Tour For August 5

Next Thursday, August 4, the agricultural agent, Ed Alchin, will lead a summer tour of orchards through Oakland County.

The tour will begin at 9:30 a. m. at Button's Orchard at 34600 12 Mile Road, Farmington. From Button's the group will go to the Glackmore farms at 1900 Silverbell Road, 3/4 miles east of Adams Road.

At 12:15 the tour will break for lunch, and continue the meeting at Juengel Orchards, 2 1/2 miles south of Rochester at 2240 South Rochester Road.

The afternoon program will include a discussion of all steps by the District Horticultural agent, Karl D. Bailey, and fruit specialists from the Michigan State College of Agriculture.

At Button's orchard, the big items of interest will be the lead spray program and the spray rig. Peach canker control and mitchling and fertilizing methods will also be shown.

At Glackmore Farms, the N-green fertilizer trail will be on display, as will the open center system of trimming and the speed sprayer.

Fernato, parathion and DDT spray control will be discussed at the Juengel orchard, as will peach canker and chemical fruit thinning.

Dairying and crop trials will be two of the features of the Farmers' Round-Up scheduled for Friday, August 5, at the Upper Peninsula Experiment Station located at Chatham.

Have an accurate survey made of fields where you intend to tie. Get a detailed map of the area.

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'HOPPERS ON THE MOVE—A band of grasshopper nymphs marches in close formation over dry ground near Denio, Nev. These insects, newly hatched, will take to the air when their wings are developed. The eggs they lay pose a potential threat to fertile California and Oregon croplands unless they are destroyed before they hatch next year.

Harvest Time Is Hazard Time, Too

Harvest time is hazard time on the farm, warns Ed Alchin, Oakland county agricultural agent. When machinery with sharp cutting mechanisms, high speed shafting, belting and gears is used during the busy harvest season, the chances of accidents mount.

Records of the National Safety Council show that accidents to farm people reach their peak during this season.

The first precaution for safe operation of harvesting machinery is inspection and repair. Seats, controls, steps, hitches and brakes and similar features should be checked and repaired if defective. All shields and other safety guards should be in place before a machine is taken to the field.

One of the principal causes of operating mishaps is failure to stop machinery before cutting, adjusting or unclogging it. Loose or floppy clothing which catches easily in revolving machine parts should not be worn.

The agent warns that small children are definitely out of place around harvesting machinery.

Since tractors are in constant use during harvest, operators must always be on the alert and never take chances. Be careful around ditches, embankments, or on the highway. Avoid excessive speeds. Never operate a tractor after dark without good lights.

4-H YOUTH LEARN OPERATION OF TRACTORS

Two million gallons of tractor fuel will be saved this year by 30,000 rural boys and girls as a direct result of putting into daily use practices recommended in the National 4-H Tractor Maintenance program, according to a recent analysis. Potential value of the program was estimated by an oil company official who he stated that if some three million American farm tractor operators had a chance to learn the 4-H way of tractor care, 200 million gallons of tractor fuel could be saved annually.

It was pointed out that in these days of declining farm prices, reducing labor costs by means of efficient tractor operation could make the difference between profit and loss in the farming business. One 4-H boy summed up the object of the tractor maintenance program in a few words when he said, "A good-running tractor means more cash in the pocket."

Michigan 4-H Club members not only bring profits to the farm by skillful tractor operation, but they also have an opportunity to compete for various individual awards. At the end of each year records are submitted to the Extension office where they are scored on the basis of accomplishment. The Standard Oil Company (Indiana), sponsor of the program in Michigan, provides sterling silver medals for county winners; a trip to the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago for state champions; and \$200 scholarships for 4-H'ers having the best records in the nation.

Since the project was first inaugurated on a national scale in 1945, more than 110,000 Club members have learned how to keep a tractor in top-notch working order the year 'round. To do the job, 11,500 Club leaders in 41 states were trained in special tractor clinics set up throughout the country for this program.

Eugene Boehlk of Albin won Oakland county and state honors in 1948. Medals were awarded to 189 other county winners. The Cooperative Extension Service supervises the program.

The West Ottawa soil conservation district is now 10 years old. It was the first in Michigan and also the first in that area of the United States east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio.

SELL IT WITH A CLASSIFIED WANT ADS BRING RESULTS!

The Grist Mill

By ED ALCHIN
Oakland County Agricultural Agent

Adoption of safer ways of working and living are being advocated as the main goal of Farm Safety Week, July 24 - 30.

Ed Alchin, county agricultural agent, is joining with local agencies to urge Oakland county farmers to check on their safety habits. The annual cost of accidents affecting farm people — including fire, motor vehicle and property damage — is approximately one million dollars, or about 625 per farm resident.

Farms are apt to contain a number of potential hazards — the little things that should be repaired but have not been.

Drunken steps are dangerous, the agent says. Keep ladders, railings and floors in a safe condition at all times. Falls cause more than a third of all fatal farm accidents. Cattle may be kind and gentle most of the time but it doesn't pay to take chances. Approach all farm animals cautiously with a friendly word or pat. You may be kicked or gored unless you do!

Keep hands, feet, and fingers away from moving machinery. If something goes wrong, turn off the machine before you investigate. The safe way is the fastest way in the long run.

Farm Safety Week is being observed in all parts of the nation from July 24 - 30. Agent Alchin asks all farmers to do their part.

Wheat should be blown to 14 per cent moisture before storage to avoid heating in the bin, say MSC crop specialists.

Testing and keeping records on dairy cows helps farmers to discover the cows which will give them the best calves.

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