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FARM FEATURES



SEPARATED—Bob McKinley, 19, a Dale, Okla., Future Farmer, and "Herschel's" Prize, his 1100-lb. Hereford steer, were close pals when this picture was taken at the American Royal Livestock Show, Kansas City, Mo. But they are separated now. "Herschel's" Prize won the grand championship and Bob sold him to Eddy Williams, Kansas City, Kan., meat packer for \$1785. Bob will use the money to get married.

Dairy Manufacturing Course To Be Offered

Michigan's biggest farming enterprise is dairying. To take care of the enormous yearly production of the state's cows, dairy manufacturing has grown to a large scale industry.

Training for dairy manufacturing is to be offered at Michigan State College in an eight-week short course designed to present the newest methods in processing milk. A few of the courses included are: testing, butter making, ice cream making, market milk processing, and judging.

Instruction is intensive and practical with time spent in the classroom and laboratory. All classes are taught by college faculty. Applications are now being accepted. Information and enrollment blanks can be secured by writing to the Director of Short Courses, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan.

RECORDS HELP COMPARE COSTS AND RETURNS

Have you ever wondered how your "best cow" or lowest producer compared with cows on other Michigan dairy farms?

Records of the income and costs of milk production on other farms will help you with the comparison, says Timothy Hodge, Michigan State College agricultural economist. Hodge summarized cost and income records from the Detroit milk shed in an article in the October issue of Michigan Farm Economics, agricultural economics department monthly publication. Records were supplied monthly during 1948 by 83 farmers.

To keep a cow one year, it took about 2 tons of hay, 2 1/3 tons of concentrates, 2 1/2 tons of silage and 100 days of pasture. The cost of these feeds was \$169. Labor, \$107, and other costs, \$74, brought the cost per cow to \$350 for one year. Income per cow for one year was \$399. Thus each cow made a net return of \$49.

Feed accounted for about one-half the total cost per cow and labor for about one-third of the total cost. Other costs included items such as electricity, bedding, and veterinary expense.

Hodge suggests watching these factors which determine returns per hour of labor: 1. production per cow; 2. price received for milk; 3. reducing labor costs with improved cow routines and efficient barn layout; and 4. size of herd.

Farmers with herds of 20 or more cows can spread costs of labor and machinery over more animals, Hodge explained. And the average price received for milk can be increased by producing more of the milk in the fall, during seasonally higher prices.

Test New Crops For Michigan Conditions

Crops labeled "new" and "amazing" may not always promise the farmer as much as the ads say. Occasionally one of these new crops proves desirable for Michigan growing conditions but sometimes they fall short of the claims made.

One of the functions of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station is the testing of crops to determine their value for use in the state. Each year many varieties are grown and the results tabulated. Differences in climate, length of day, and other factors influence yield.

Before buying seed of so-called "new" crops, it's wise for farmers to check with the county agricultural agent who can give information derived from experiment station tests.

Organic Matter Vital To Soil

Getting the most out of the rain falling on land depends to a good extent on keeping a good supply of active organic matter in the soil. Soils high in organic matter can soak up and hold more water because the earth is porous and open. Soil conservationists at Michigan State College say that proper rotations with plenty of plowed-under deep-rooted legumes will help to achieve the goal of a greater organic matter content in soil.

To make sure that next year's fertilizer needs will be available, Michigan State College soil scientists advise farmers to decide the kind and amount they require and to get orders placed early.

Livestock Presents Use For Grain Crop

One of the best ways to dispose of grain is to put it into livestock and thus convert it into usable food.

This suggestion for use of surplus feed was made at the recent Michigan farm management tour conducted by the cooperative extension service of the host counties, Leuenau, Hillsdale and Branch, and Michigan State College.

Many may not want to fill and seal corn cribs now, suggested G. A. Brown, head of the MSC animal husbandry department. He stated that he believed the farmer will do better in finding a way of disposing of his products through consumers instead of storing.

Don Stark, MSC agricultural economist, advised feeders to use caution in the feeder cattle business. It's "no game for amateurs" this year, he warned. Men who know the business, have access to plenty of feed, and get the grade they pay for when buying, should go ahead with feeder cattle operations, he believes.

Cattle and hog feeders were told that they must consider livestock marketing as a part of their production program. It takes planning before buying, taking advantage of seasonal ups and downs, and paying attention to what the consumer wants, said "Ike" Walton, manager of the farmer-owned Michigan Livestock Exchange.

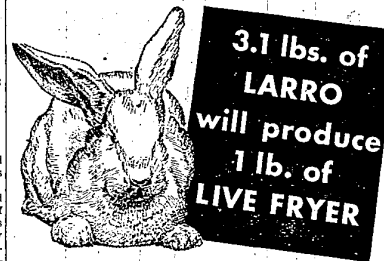
YIELD OF 1,000 BUSHELS AN ACRE IS POTATO RECORD

Don't claim the election until all the products are in. Politicians have found that to be good advice.

Potato championships, too, should not be claimed until all parts of the state are heard from in this state of Michigan. A Kent county yield of 853 bushels recently reported topped all previous Michigan records. But now reports from Marquette county in the upper peninsula show a yield of more than 1,000 bushels an acre.

Paul Van Damme in south Marquette county produced a yield of 1,038 bushels an acre on a six-acre plot. The yield was checked by R. H. Kaven, Marquette county agricultural agent, and William Cargo, crops specialist for the Michigan Extension Service.

Van Damme got his early potato growing training from his father, Jules Van Damme, who once won the state premier potato grower honors. But here's how he got more than 1,000 bushels to the acre: He cleared some new land in the spring of 1948 and last fall planted rye, using 600 pounds of 3-12 fertilizer at planting time. In May he plowed under the rye for green manure and planted 40 bushels of certified Russet Rural seed potatoes to the acre, using 1,000 pounds of 3-12-12 fertilizer for each acre. Rows were 32 inches apart and potatoes were planted 9 inches apart in rows.



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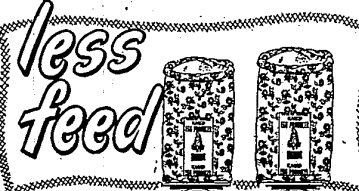
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18. Check condition of oil filter element



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