


FARM FEATURES

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh



"Left-Handed Compliment"


See where a bank in Denver is putting in left-handed checkbooks. They figure their south-westerly doors deserve just as much consideration as the right handers.

Time was when it was believed that left-handed people had no right to exist at all. If a youngster showed signs of using his left hand, his parents were supposed to break him of the habit—to force him to use his right.

But today most doctors will tell you that changing a child's natural left-handed tendency usually causes more harm than good.

Joe Marsh

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Baby CHICKS

YOU CAN GROW A CHICK ONLY ONCE YOU WIN OR LOSE IN THE FIRST 12 WEEKS

The whole future of a chick hinges on the feed and care it gets in its first 12 weeks. It requires very little feed to produce a strong, healthy chick if fed the proper ration. Don't take chances—feed

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Expect Short Seed Supply For 1950

Just how short we are of seed of some important grasses and legumes shows up in a survey quoted by M. D. Tesar, Michigan State College farm crops authority. Indications are that the nation's farmers would like to plant about 100 million acres of grasses in legumes in 1950 but seed for only 55 million acres was produced in 1949.

The 1949 seed crop will plant only one-fourth of the bromegrass, one-third of the timothy, and about one-half of the red clover and alfalfa which American farmers would like to seed in 1950. Seed prices have increased because of the short ages. Bromegrass is 40 per cent higher this year and timothy almost twice as high.

Michigan farmers produce about 40 per cent more red clover than they need but prices remain high because most of the seed is shipped out of the state.

Seed prices are high now but will probably be higher this spring when the supply of seed becomes more scarce. Now is the time to buy for spring seedings, Tesar advises. He believes it won't be any cheaper later, quality may not be as good, and it may not be available.

What about the future supplies of forage crop seed? Seed supplies will continue to be scarce with high prices because of demand brought on by a grassland type of agriculture. Michigan farmers are encouraged to grow more of their own seed to provide a cheaper source or adapted forage seed for home use. County agricultural agents can advise farmers when and how different forage crops can be harvested for seed. Regardless of harvest methods, seed should be well cleaned of weed seed before it is sown.

Plow Care Rated Important Task

The plow is still the number one piece of equipment on most farms and with proper care it will last for years. Michigan State College agricultural engineers say farmers sometimes allow plows to get in had condition and thereby increase their work.

The share is a vital part and should be checked before spring work starts and repointed or re-sharpened. If needed, a new share should be installed. A dull share causes poor penetration and may increase the draft of the plow.

A good point to consider when buying sheep is the length of the jaws, say Michigan State College sheep specialists. If the jaws are of unequal length, it's difficult for the sheep to make the best use of roughage to produce meat and wool.

Retailers Push Egg Sales To Aid Farmers

Retail and chain store grocers in Michigan have joined poultrymen in pushing eggs and poultry products during the current surplus, according to J. M. Moore, poultry extension specialist at Michigan State College.

"Many grocers are giving special attention to eggs, pointing out that they offer a fine opportunity to balance both the budget and the diet," Moore said.

One large chain grocery firm reports they are featuring eggs "and will continue to do so as long as they are causing a surplus problem."

Moore said the current surplus is causing the industry great concern as orders are being placed or delivery is being taken now for the chicks that will produce next winter's eggs. "If too many producers become discouraged, flock numbers will go down and consumers will find the price situation on eggs next winter just the reverse," the poultry specialist predicted.

To Teach Shearing At Michigan State

Four days of instruction in sheep shearing and farm flock care will take place at Michigan State College, February 13 through 16.

According to Graydon Blank, MSC sheep specialist, many young men and adults want instruction in sheep shearing. The first two days of the course are set up for beginners. On Wednesday, February 15, the experienced shearers will gather for advanced training and for special instruction in sheep management. The annual meeting of the Michigan Sheep Shearers' association will be held on this day.

Blank advises that beginning shearers should report directly to the livestock pavilion on Monday morning, February 13. Work clothes should be brought. Those who stay overnight should bring blankets.

Early Chicks Mean Earlier Fall Eggs

"The earlier the better" is the watchword for buying baby chicks, says Howard Zindel, Michigan State College poultryman.

Early ordering means you have a better chance of getting your chicks when you want them. Early-hatched chicks grow faster than those born later, and should be laying well by early fall when egg prices are highest.

By starting early, you can find a reliable hatchery that has the kind of chicks you want. In addition, early chicks are easy to grow and are not bothered so much by disease and parasites.

To avoid losses from disease, Michigan State College poultrymen say it's a good idea to know the background of chicks that you buy. They should come from flocks that have a history of producing lots of large eggs.

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MSC Asks Data On Tree Locations

Forest trees to plant in southern Michigan should be grown from seed planted in this latitude. For this reason, the Michigan State College forestry department is anxious to locate plantations and natural stands of pine and spruce trees in southern Michigan that are old enough to produce seed.

W. Ira Bull, college nursery manager, states that the age at which trees will produce seed varies with the species. Jack pine and white spruce may produce cones when the trees are less than 10 years old, but white and red pine might not produce any seed until the trees are 20 to 25 years old. The average age for seed production would be 15 years and older.

Bull would like to have all people interested in reforestation report the location of trees that are old enough to produce good seed. He is interested in trees of the following species: white pine, red pine, jack pine, Austrian pine, Scots pine, white spruce and Norway spruce.

The information desired is the species and approximate age of the trees, size of plantation or approximate number of trees, location, county, township, section and quarter section and names of the land owner where the trees are located. If the quarter section can not be determined accurately, the location in relation to the junction of two roads or to a specified township will be satisfactory.

Start 969 Farm-Game Restoration Projects

Including 657 individual farm-game restoration projects in 1949, over 969 have been started since the inception of the joint farm-observation department wildlife habitat improvement program. The program began in March, 1948.

Farmers participating in the program during the past two years have reseeded 1,381,537 trees and shrubs. Nearly a third of the stock consisted of multiflora rose. Planted 18 inches apart, the rose stock would reach from Detroit to close to Grand Rapids.

W. C. Ryder, leader of the department's habitat restoration program, announced that 260 new farm-game projects are on tap for the spring planting season. Ryder advises others interested in the spring planting program to make application to the game division office here before March 1. Applications received after March 1 will be considered for future planting seasons.

Plans outlined for wildlife food and cover will in most cases conform with routine farming operations. Cooperating farmers will develop unused corners and swales with such plantings as shrubs and pine seedlings. Recommended changes in farming practice cover only such items as preventing grazing by livestock and maintaining the fence rows.

New Fire Inspector Joins MSC Staff

Fire protection for a \$50,000,000 physical plant has been reinforced at Michigan State College with the appointment of the first full-time campus fire inspector by the State Board of Agriculture.

Richard O. Bernitt, Monroe fireman and 1943 graduate of MSC, will assume duties April 1. Earlier college officials included in a capital outlay appropriation request to the state legislature a \$275,000 fund for water reservoir. This would provide adequate water to fight fires of any size in campus buildings, officials said.

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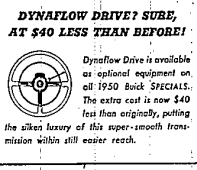
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