

Extra Heat Saves Pigs At Farrowing

The annual toll of five million baby pigs which die each year from chilling emphasizes the need for extra warmth at farrowing time. H. W. Newland, Michigan State College swine specialist, reports.

He points out that the body temperature regulating mechanism of the new-born pig is not very well developed. Their body temperature drops four to 13 degrees in the first

30 minutes after birth and the return to normal is gradual.

Extra heat applied in one corner of the farrowing pen which is fenced off from the sow will help to save one or more extra pigs per litter. Two types of brooders are in common use, the hover-type and the reflector-lamp-type. County agricultural agents can give details of construction and information on correct brooder operation.

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List Points In Farm Transfer

Keeping the farm in the family is the goal of every farmer nearing retirement age. But if you are planning such a transfer, do it right, advises E. D. Hill, Michigan State College agricultural economist.

Hill lists these steps as required procedure for avoiding mistakes when making family farm transfers:

1. Give early consideration to your farm transfer arrangement.
2. Develop your own ideas on how to best do the job. Consult Michigan Special Bulletin 357, "How To Keep Your Farm in the Family." It is available from county agricultural agents' offices or by writing to the Bulletin Office, Department of Public Relations, Michigan State College, East Lansing.

3. Consult with the son who is to operate the home farm.

4. Consult with the other heirs. No one wants to inherit a family feud.

5. Consult with your attorney. Hill advises that all legal, personal, and economic angles be carefully considered.

Ability of the families to get along with each other, opportunities for the son, income for the parents, farm valuations and housing facilities are all factors which should help determine the right move.

Goals to consider should include reasonable security for parents as well as farm operating help, fair treatment of other heirs, and maintaining or improving the farm as a going concern.



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Farmers Seek Long Life In Alfalfa

Most Michigan farmers want their alfalfa to last for several years so crops research scientists at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station have found several recommendations for them.

S. T. Dexter, Michigan State College farm crops specialist, says that winterhardy variegated varieties such as Grimm, Hardigan, and Canadian Variegated have long been recommended to get through our severe winters without injury. Northern crown commons are an acceptable second choice.

About 20 years ago, the Ladak variety was brought out to combat the newly spreading disease, bacterial wilt of alfalfa. While it was fully as winterhardy as Grimm, yielded as well, and was somewhat resistant to the new disease, it had some advantages. It was slow to recover from cutting with a resultant small second crop, suffered somewhat from leafspot, and tended to be less green in color than Grimm. These new characteristics plus scarcity of seed limited its use.

Two new varieties which were highly resistant to bacterial wilt were brought out about 10 years ago. Though still high-priced, the seed is gradually becoming available. The new Buffalo was too tender for our winters but the other variety, Ranger, was found to be almost as winterhardy as Grimm and yielded well. It should be managed carefully, if used, in order to avoid winter injury and thus get the benefit of the wilt resistance.

Dexter says that for farmers who wish to plow up their alfalfa after two or three years of harvest, Michigan-grown seed from variegated varieties is still best. On farms where wilt resistance is needed, Ranger may give good results. In the northern part of the state, Ladak may be better than Grimm or Hardigan. Since Ladak and Ranger seed is still scarce, farmers may grow their own seed of those varieties, if possible.

The remedy for muddy barn yards is a hard surface. Michigan State College extension specialists say that cattle that have to wallow knee-deep in mud can't produce properly and are hard to care for.

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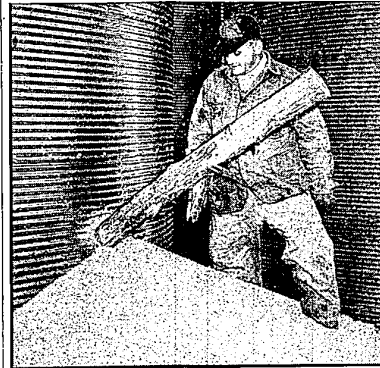
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FARM FEATURES



BIG WIND DID THIS—Ray Koerner, Chenoa, Ill., farmer stands knee-deep in corn which leaked from government storage bin at Chenoa after a freak 50-mile-an-hour wind drove a fence post through the bin wall. The storm wrecked 20 empty grain storage bins and caused other damage in the town.

Beat Parasite Threat With Balanced Ration

Balanced rations not only contribute to the vigor and growth of livestock, but also make it easier to beat the parasite problem, says Dr. B. J. Killham, Michigan State College extension veterinarian.

Poorly fed animals are ready victims of parasites. In addition, drugs for worming sometimes cause bad setbacks in animals that have been fed improperly. Well nourished stocks are less likely to suffer harmful effects from such treatment.

By considering the needs of animals, farmers can make rations that provide for the well being of the herd and help to avoid parasites which make animals unthrifty and cut production.

Use ample bedding in the stables to absorb liquid manure, say Michigan State College extension specialists. Care for all manure in a way to save plant food and organic matter. Medium applications at frequent intervals are better than heavy applications less frequently.

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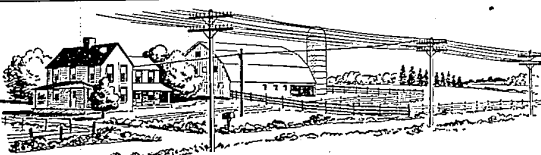
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Rural Tele-news



DID YOU KNOW?—About 50% of the farms of America now have telephones—a higher proportion than in any other country in the world. In Michigan Bell territory about 7 out of 10 rural establishments have telephones. That's pretty close to Michigan Bell's city telephone development.

SO MUCH FOR SO LITTLE—Someone described telephone service as a big package filled with the good things of life. Convenience—the telephone saves time and steps. Security—the telephone stands guard 24 hours a day. Comfort—the telephone keeps you in touch with friends and relatives. When you consider all that the telephone does, its small cost makes it one of the best buys on today's market.



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