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FARM FEATURES**SOIL CONSERVATION
AWARDS GIVEN 10
MICHIGAN FARMERS**

Michigan's soil conservation districts are but 12 years old, but ten Michigan farmers possess certificates of honor for serving 10 years as directors of conservation districts. The awards were made at a recent meeting held at Michigan State College.

Winners of the award were:
Mason District — Floyd Wood, Scottsville.

West Ottawa District — Albert Stegenga, Route 2, Holland, and Clarence Reenders, Route 2, Grand Haven.

South Muskegon District — Olaf Hostad, Route 1, Fruitport; Victor Anderson, Route 1, Fruitport; Kenneth Ball, Bailey and Alvin Woodard, Route 2, Ravenna.

Fenton District — A. E. Holforth, Fenton.

North Muskegon District — Milton VanFrank, Montague; Hans Agard, Route 3, Muskegon.

The soil conservation districts in Michigan comprise 19,560,000 acres. During the year of 1949, farmers in the district established 9,900 acres of contours, 10,800 acres of strip cropping, improved 7,800 acres of pastures and planted 5,200 acres in trees.

Much of this work was cooperative between government and state agencies. The Michigan Cooperative Extension Service provides the education phases of the program and the Soil Conservation Service provides technical help to farmers doing this work.

Getting machinery ready for spring and summer is a good winter-time job. A well-equipped farm shop, with heat, will pay dividends. MSC agricultural engineers find.



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HEART DO FLIP-FLOPS ON
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FRENCH RECLAIM SWAMP LAND—Workmen start the first day of work in the reclamation of France's largest swamp, the Marais Vernier, which is 5000 acres. With the help of Marshall Plan aid, the French hope to restore the valuable farmland to use. The swamp is located in the Seine Estuary region in Normandy.

**Future Farmers
To Meet At MSC**

More than 500 Future Farmers of America from 150 Michigan high schools will meet at Michigan State College at East Lansing March 21 and 22 for the organization's twenty-second annual state convention. The meeting is sponsored by the office of vocational education of the state department of public instruction and Michigan State College. Visitors will be housed in the quonset village and eat at the quonset cafeteria. Winners in the regional public speaking contest and parliamentary procedure demonstration contests will give demonstrations and state champions will be selected.

The National FFA organization will be represented by George Lewis, national president from Hersman, Illinois, John Norton, Cassopolis, a Michigan State College student and president of the Michigan association, will report on the national convention.

A banquet is planned for Tuesday evening, March 21. C. W. Otto, manager of the Lansing Chamber of Commerce, will be the main speaker. Other highlights of the conference will be the election of officers and awarding of honorary state farmer degrees.

**Rainfall Loss
By Runoff High**

Rainfall does little good in helping soil produce crops if it is not saved.

George A. Crabbs, Jr., MSC soil conservationist, says seven years of trials under good farming practices show average losses of rainfall by runoff are: 2 per cent from woods, 21 per cent from corn and 17 per cent from close growing crops.

Those farmers not using good practices will suffer greater losses.

**POTATOES EQUAL
MANURE IN VALUE
AS FERTILIZER**

How much are potatoes worth as fertilizer?

After a little calculation, Paul Rood, Michigan State College Soil scientist, came up with this answer. About as much per ton as average farm manure.

The question came to Rood by long distance from a farmer who said he could buy surplus potatoes at one cent a hundred. Rood figured out that a ton of potatoes would have 7 pounds of nitrogen, 2.5 pounds of phosphoric acid and 10.5 pounds of potash — worth about \$1.85.

Rood put his answer this way. You have the manure in your barn and it has to be hauled out. So it costs you only the loading, hauling and spreading. Potatoes, too, would have to be loaded, and it bought some distance from the farm the hauling would be greater. They, too, have to be spread. You also have to pay 20 cents for the ton of potatoes.

At the same time, Rood warned, potatoes with any disease could carry that disease to the soil.

It would take only 68 pounds of a commercial fertilizer to give the same plant foods of equal value to the nitrogen, phosphate and potash in a ton of "spuds".

So what you should do about buying potatoes from somewhere off your farm for fertilizer should be easy to figure out. If, however, you grow potatoes and the government has bought them at support prices and offers to sell them to you at one cent a hundred, your problem is different. You have to get them out of your storage house. So it offers about the same problem as getting the manure out of the barn.

Make-shift ladders — like boxes, chairs or tables — invite falls.

**Ever Wonder Why
Cows Leave Home?**

Ever wonder why "cows leave home"?

From 20 to 30 per cent of the cows in Michigan dairy herds this year will not be there next year. Larry Johnson, Michigan State College dairy extension specialist, says Dairy Herd Improvement Association records for 1949 show 22.5 per cent of the 44,501 cows in associations were dropped from herds during the year.

Low production caused nearly half of all dropped to go to the butcher. Less than one per cent died of old age. Udder trouble, usually mastitis, caused 10 per cent of those missing to be dropped from the Michigan herds.

These records show the average cow is good for only four to five years in the herd.

Farmers can fatten their pocket-book and improve their soil with a good grass and pasture program.

Michigan's potato acreage of 104,000 acres in 1949 showed a great reduction from the 183,000 acre average for the ten years previous.

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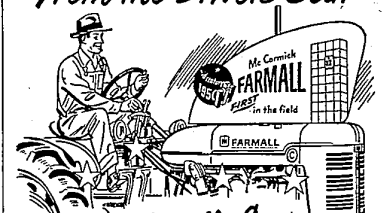
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Rural Tele-news**THIS LITTLE PIGGY WENT TO MARKET**

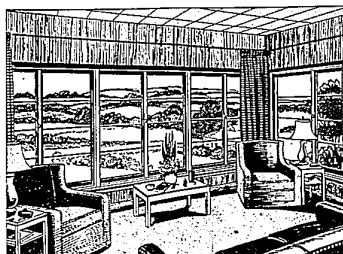
And the chances are, he was assisted in his journey by the telephone. For farmers find the telephone invaluable in checking the market, selling and ordering supplies. Every day the telephone saves valuable time that can be profitably devoted to the farm. Yet with all the help it gives... with all the comfort and convenience it brings... a telephone costs less than a half gallon of gasoline a day.

**THE WORLD'S FAR CORNERS... IN YOUR HOME**

If you were to visit the countries that provide all the materials that go into the various parts of your telephone, you'd be a world traveler. India for mica. Mexico for lead antimony. Brazil for caruba wax from palm leaves. Western Electric, the manufacturing and supply unit of the Bell System, searches the far corners of the world for materials to give you the best possible telephone equipment and service.



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