

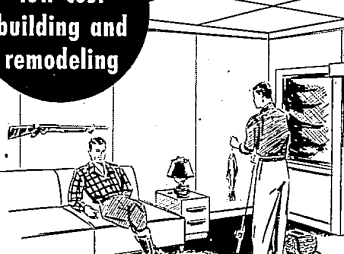
# FARM FEATURES

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### Survey Of Wood-Using Industries Ends July 1

A 20-month survey of lower Michigan wood-using industries, their location and requirements, as well as to promote a more complete and efficient utilization of the state's raw and processed wood products.

State foresters have been interviewing sawmill operators, other handlers of primary forest products, and executives of wood-using firms. A directory will be compiled which will show sawmill operators possible outlets for their products and in turn possible sources of supply of processed wood products for manufacturers.

As part of the overall wood resources utilization plan, the forestry division compiled a directory of lower peninsula sawmills.

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## Meet Your Michigan



**WARM WEATHER DANGER SIGNAL FOR DAIRYMEN**

Most good dairymen are constantly on guard against unsanitary conditions which may contaminate milk. No matter how many precautions are taken to keep milk free of bacteria, there'll always be a certain amount present.

With warmer weather at hand, dairymen must give special attention to cooling the milk to prevent growth of bacteria, according to Michigan State College dairy specialists.

Perhaps the best means yet devised to check the growth of bacteria in milk is to cool it as soon as it is milked from the cow. Under Michigan laws, dairymen can not deliver or transport milk at a temperature above 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Even at a temperature of 60 degrees, bacteria multiply at a rate of 15 times in 24 hours. Bacteria in milk at 40 degrees will not reproduce itself. However, at 80 degrees bacteria will multiply itself 3,000 times within a 24-hour period.

Because of the constant threat of bacteria in milk multiplying itself at this time of year, it is of paramount importance that dairymen give special emphasis to the handling of milk and the management of the dairy herd. Milk may be cooled by any one of several different methods. Milk must be kept at a temperature below 60 degrees and preferably below a temperature of 50 degrees, the dairy specialists advocate.

Mechanical coolers will give the most consistent and best results to the dairymen every day throughout the year. To speed cooling action, it is recommended that an agitator be used to circulate the cold water around the cans, after they have been immersed.

Make certain that small grain is down to at least 14 per cent moisture for safe storage, urge the Michigan State College farm crops specialists.

**WARM WEATHER DANGER SIGNAL FOR DAIRYMEN**

**GEOLOGISTS' PARADISE:** IN THE UPPER PENINSULA'S HETEROGENEOUS DISTRICT, ITS RED METAL PRODUCTION RECORDED IN 1949 TO BE THE MOST YANNA. THIS CLASSICAL GEOLOGICAL SECTION WITH ITS WIDE VARIETY OF MINERAL SPECIES HEAVILY ATTRACTS PEOPLE FROM NEAR AND FAR.

**NATION'S OLDEST RIVER CLUB?** THE DETROIT BOAT CLUB, FOUNDED IN 1830, IS NORTH AMERICA'S OLDEST ROWING CLUB. IN 1949 IT SPONSORED THE FIRST RIVER RACE IN WESTERN MICHIGAN — A CONTEST BETWEEN GENERAL TEN-MAN BARRAGE SINCE 1945 OCCUPIED ITS PRESENT SITE ON DETROIT'S BEAUTIFUL BELLE ISLE.

**MICHIGAN — FIRST FOR FISH: OUR STATE** HAS THE WORLD'S GREATEST ISLAND FISHERIES. COMMERCIAL FISHERY NETTED ABOUT 25 MILLION POUNDS OF FISH FROM MICHIGAN'S GREAT LAKES WATERS IN 1949. ESTIMATED VALUE WAS \$4 MILLION. DOLLARS WERE SECOND ONLY TO STATE OF WISCONSIN. YELLOW PERCH TRUMPET AND TIPPED THE LIST OF TWENTY SPECIES CAUGHT.

**PLENTY OF PEAS OF PICKLES:** MICHIGAN IS AMERICA'S MOST PROLIFIC CUCURBIT COUNTRY, PRODUCING 85 PER CENT MORE THAN THE NEXT LEADING STATE. THIS RECORD CROP OF NEARLY 3.2 MILLION BUSHELS BROUGHT TO MICHIGAN PRODUCERS OVER \$3,000,000.

*MICHIGAN FEATURE SERIES prepared by MICHIGAN TOURIST COUNCIL, No. 24*

### Farm Mortgage Expenses Decline To Lowest Level Ever Reached

Along among the major items in the cost of running the nation's agricultural establishment, aggregate interest charges on farm mortgages have shown a marked decline in recent years and are now at the lowest level on record in relation to cash farm income, according to figures compiled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

This development contrasts sharply with the trend of other farm costs, which have doubled and more in the last decade. It reflects a combination of factors including the big rise in farm income in the period, substantial net mortgage reduction as compared with previous years, and lower interest rates charged by principal farm mortgage lenders among which the life insurance companies are prominent.

Department of Agriculture figures show that in 1949, the latest year available, farm mortgage interest charges in the aggregate added up to \$229 millions. This was somewhat above the comparable figures for the three preceding years, reflecting an uptrend in aggregate farm mortgage debt in the postwar period, but except for these it was the lowest such total for any year since 1912. In 1939 farm mortgage interest charges exceeded \$300 millions, or 25 per cent more than the 1949 figure.

Related to agriculture's earnings, farm mortgage interest charges in 1949 represented only .7 of one per cent of cash farm income. This was the same proportion as in 1947 and was the lowest such relationship for the four decades since 1910 for which statistics of this nature have been compiled.

As a matter of fact, prior to 1941 farm mortgage interest charges consistently took more than 3 per cent of cash farm income annually. After the first World War, the proportion of aggregate interest charges to total cash farm income went up sharply from the wartime level and rose to about 8 per cent in 1921 and 1922, in contrast with the 1949 level of .7 per cent. The record high relationship for such charges, 11.1 per cent, was established in 1932 when the mortgage debt burden played an important role in the agricultural distress of the period.

The peak of farm mortgage interest rates was reached in 1923 when they averaged 6.4 per cent for all lenders. Since then the rate has gone down steadily and in 1949 it averaged 4.6 per cent for all lenders, a decline of 25 per cent from the high. Average rates charged by Government agencies and life insurance companies are lower than those of other principal lenders, and have consistently been so. Government lending agencies and life insurance companies hold approximately two-fifths of the outstanding farm mortgage debt.


Farmers who may be hiring extra help this summer should be sure to keep track of expenses so they can figure their income tax accurately, say Michigan State College agricultural economists.

Shade trees need water, too. Michigan State College foresters say large trees may be thirsty enough to use 20,000 gallons of water a year.

Dairymen who hold in by the rubber parts of a milking machine which came in contact with milk must give special attention to cleaning in lower bacteria counts and keeps the rubber in good condition.

Michigan State College poultrymen list shade as an important item in raising healthy pullets. The animals need protection from hot summer sun for best development.

### Need Another Tractor?



If you're watching the weeds grow in the corn when the haying can't wait—worrying about planting when there's still more plowing and harrowing—or wishing the manure would haul itself when the big tractor's busy... you need another tractor.

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### Pleasure Trip or Precious Time Wasted...?

Summer trips can be either. "Make mine a pleasure trip," you say! Then take your car to General Auto Repair now! Remember, it's a lot better to put your car in shape right at home than to stop at garages all along your vacation route.

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### POULTRY POINTERS

By Your Dr. Salsbury's Dealer



Old and young birds should never mix on range, because old stock is usually the source of infection for coccidiosis, respiratory diseases, worms, etc. When a new flock takes the range, cull your old birds for marketing. Sell old hens before housing pullets.

Most poultrymen agree, clean land is not a cure-all, but birds usually do better when started on clean ground. A clean range helps keep flocks free from disease and parasites. The range should be in permanent pasture and grazed or cut frequently.

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