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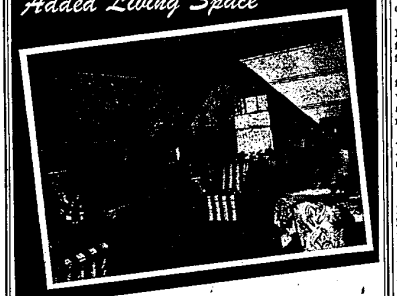

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FARM FEATURES

Many Factors Make Good Hay

Michigan farmers are finding out the importance of good hay in dairy feeding during the current Grass Day demonstrations being held in Michigan. But D. L. Murray, extension dairy specialist at Michigan State College, says there are many ideas concerning what constitutes "good hay".

In his opinion, good hay must start with the kind of hay crop grown. Legume crops, especially alfalfa, are the basis for good hay. To be best quality, alfalfa must be cut at about one-tenth bloom to have the palatability and highly nutritional elements that make more milk.

Weather conditions and methods of storage often damage hay that is cut basically good, so Murray says farmers must watch every detail in the haymaking operation.

In other words, Muray believes "good hay" is determined by:

1. Quality of grass and legume in the crop.
2. Maturity of the grass and legume when cut.
3. Weather conditions at time hay is made.
4. Method of storage of hay before it is fed.

He describes good hay as fine stemmed, green and leafy, with a great amount of legume. That kind of hay is ideal and since 75 to 80 percent of the nutrients fed to the dairy herd should come from the roughage, it should put dollars in the milk pail for the farmer. That's because it would reduce the need for heavy grain and concentrate feeding.

New Experiment Director

DR. ROY E. MARSHALL

Named to the post of assistant director of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station is Dr. Roy E. Marshall, of the Michigan State College horticulture department. The appointment was effective July 1.

Long a recognized authority on food processing, Dr. Marshall originated the method from which developed the apple juice industry, offspring of the old time cider.

A graduate of the University of Nebraska, he has an M. S. degree from Oregon State and his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.

He is well known to Michigan farmers and fruit growers for his work in pomology, farm fruit storage, orchard pollination, and canning.

Keep Stock From Treated Seeds

Chemically-treated seed grains, left over from spring planting, can kill livestock if they get mixed in with feed grains.

Michigan State College agricultural specialists advise farmers to get rid of surplus treated grain by disposing of it where livestock cannot eat it. It is advisable to label the treated seed and store it where you won't mistake it for feed grain.

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FIELD OF GOLDEN GRAIN—Aloys Schwerman of Topeka, Kan., proudly surveyed his 140-acre wheat field here, which is expected to yield 45 bushels per acre. He credits his outstanding crop to the quality of seed, proper fertilization and his plan for rotating the wheat with sweet clover.

Specialists Seek New Potato Varieties For Michigan Farms

If you're one of those consumers who bought a bag of potatoes that didn't come up to your expectations, perhaps you've mentioned that something ought to be done about it.

Well, something is — not by just one person but by many.

But let's just take notice of what one man is doing to try to get Mrs. Housewife a better quality potato.

This week E. J. Wheeler, potato specialist of Michigan State College, is finishing planting of 7,500 different potentially new varieties of potatoes. They are all crosses from true seed and are being grown for the first time this year.

Out of more than 6,000 potential varieties planted last year, Wheeler has 310 that "look good enough" to be tried for the second year. From the 1948 initial planting of more than 5,000 potential varieties, 420 still remain "in the running".

There are 160 more possible varieties from earlier starts — some of them more than 10 years old—that are being given a further test.

The farm crops researcher at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station is not confining his schedule to the "home field" either. He has 12 cooperating farmers who provide land on which the tests are conducted. Then too, there are experimental plots at Lake City, Rogers City, the MSC Muck Farm 10 miles north of East Lansing, the upper peninsula experiment station at Chatham, in addition to the experiment station at East Lansing.

In the group of potential varieties of many years of trial there is one that "looks mighty good" according to Wheeler. Just known as 520-2, it is being tested by commercial growers throughout Michigan. About 50 bushels were available this spring and from this, Wheeler hopes to have 300 to 400 bushels for more extensive trials next year. No seed for general distribution will be available until 1952.

HIGHER PRODUCTION IS GOAL OF EUROPE'S AGRICULTURE

American farmers would have to learn many things about farming all over again if they were to operate a farm in western Europe, says Arthur Mauch, Michigan State College agricultural economist. Mauch was one of 65 American educators who recently returned from the MSC "Flying Classroom" study tour of 11 nations.

"In Europe, maximum food production per acre is more important than efficient use of labor according to our standards," Mauch said. Land is scarce, labor abundant and farming intensive. European farms are small, scattered, and often quite a distance from where the farmer lives. Occasionally you can observe farmers "spending more time getting to and from fields than they do working there."

The MSC economist reports that western European farmers and leaders are striving to boost total production. Land reform movements, emphasis on extension education to boost modern technology in production and marketing, and the renewal of "production mindedness" on the part of farmers are evident throughout the area.

Insect Shipment Calls For Care

Care should be used in sending insects to the entomology department at Michigan State College, advises Ray L. Janes, entomology extension specialist.

Though the department is willing to cooperate in identifying insects it is frequently impossible to do so. When people slip the insects into an envelope or between a piece of paper, the bugs frequently arrive at the college smashed into a mass of color, and thus, cannot be identified.

Janes points out that if people would first kill the insects in rubbing alcohol and then put them in a box so they would not crush, the situation would be remedied. He reports that it is almost impossible to tell one insect from another when it arrives crushed.

To Stress Hunting Plan In State This Fall

The extension service of Michigan State College is again cooperating with the Michigan Department of Conservation in sponsoring the "Williamston Plan" for controlled hunting on southern Michigan land.

Charles Shick, MSC game management specialist, says the plan allows for systematic harvesting of the annual farm game crop by limiting the number of hunters through a permit system.

Under the plan, farmers organize a club, post boundary signs, and issue guest tickets.

Additional information on the "Williamston Plan" may be obtained from the Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State College, East Lansing, or the Game Division, Michigan Department of Conservation, Lansing 13.

Speakers can be scheduled to give details to interested groups.

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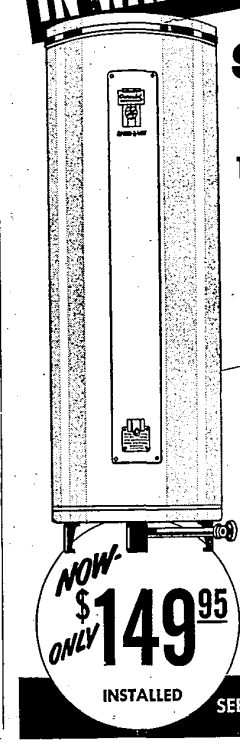

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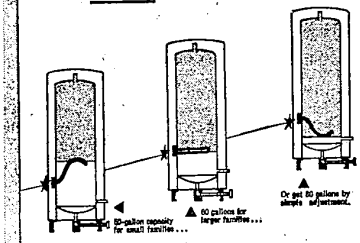

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