

Develop New Rat And Mouse Killer

A new rat and mouse killer hailed as one of the safest from the human standpoint and one which holds promise of wiping out rodent colonies completely and permanently — is now available to the general public. It has been announced by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF).

Warfarin, the new death-dealing substance, developed at the University of Wisconsin in the laboratories of Prof. Karl Paul Link, is now available to rodenticide manufacturers, reported Ward Ross, WARF general manager.

Warfarin's effectiveness will make it one of great value for use

on farms and in restaurants, warehouses, and manufacturing establishments. Other poisons kill so rapidly that dead and dying rats serve as a warning to the rest of the colony. Tasteless and odorless Warfarin, however, is slow-acting and relies upon the cumulative effects of small quantities consumed over a period of days.

Poisoned rats show no immediate effects. They eventually become drowsy, and begin to walk with a slow and measured gait. Finally, without suffering, they die of internal hemorrhage. Other rats are not warned of the poison — there is no dash for water, there are no convulsions — and the bait then remains to keep stray rats from again populating the area.

FARM FEATURES

Plan Annual Farm Tour In August

Farmers who wish to find out the "inside story" of successful farming should plan to attend the second annual state farm management tour, reports John Doneth, Michigan State College farm management specialist.

This year's event will take place in Eaton and Calhoun Counties on Thursday and Friday, August 17 and 18. Farmers from all areas of Michigan are invited to attend. Featured events on the tours will be the presentations of views on farming by host farmers, county agricultural agents, and members of the Michigan State College staff.

First stop on the tour will be the Frank Crandall farm, Calhoun County, five miles north of Battle Creek on North Avenue. Soil management and efficient swine and feeder cattle will be on view. Other afternoon events will be a visit to the Battle Creek stock yards, a tour of the Kellogg plant, and the banquet.

Reservations for the banquet and overnight lodging in Battle Creek should be made with Burrell Henry, county agricultural agent, Federal Building, Marshall.

Friday's stops will include the Lorraine Marshall farm, Calhoun County, three miles south of Albion on M-99, then one and three-quarters miles east. A 240-acre farm, this stop will feature swine, feeder cattle and sheep. Second stop will be the Dwight Ballard farm, Eaton County, near Onondaga, offering an extensive poultry business.

The tour luncheon will be held at 12:30. Reservations should be made with Hans Kerdel, county agricultural agent, Charlotte.

The afternoon will offer a tour of the Elbert Kelsey farm, Eaton County, of Hope Road. This tour will stress dairying, poultry, and land use. A summary of the tour will be held at 3:30 p.m.

MUCK FARMER FIELD DAY TO SHOW TESTS

A fall day's program planned for muck farmers has been set for Wednesday, August 2, at the Michigan State College Muck Experimental Farm located near Bath.

The muck experiment area has been expanded during the year with a total of 40 acres now in experimental plots. Visitors will have an opportunity to see such new projects as overhead irrigation, fertilizer placement on celery, the effect of nitrogen on onions, the use of sulfur and micronutrient elements in the production of blueberries, and rock phosphate experiments with sugar beets and onions.

Onion growers will be especially interested in demonstrations of bulk storage of onions, new chemicals for weed control, new materials for onion thrips and maggot control, and sprays for prolonging their storage life of onions.

Michigan State College staff members will be on hand to explain the results of tests to the visitors. They will describe the variety trials of onions, celery, corn, sorghums, potatoes, barley, and spring wheat.

Several pieces of new equipment will be on display through the day. A new 500-foot, 2-inch well has been completed and a portable pipe irrigation system installed. A new fertilizer placement attachment for a celery transplanter and the bulk storage onion silos complete with conveyor system will be available for inspection. New developments in machines for farming muck will be featured.

Tours of the plots will begin at 10:00 a.m. and again after the noon program.

Farmers and their families are invited to bring a basket lunch for the noon hour.

Plan Poultry School At MSC

Poultrymen will meet at Michigan State College July 24-28 for a flock selection and blood testing school, according to H. C. Zindel, MSC extension poultryman.

A comprehensive program has been arranged, featuring such topics as disease control, culling, feeding, and blood testing techniques.

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Grass Farming Pays Dividends

"It isn't so much what you make with 'grassland farming,' it's what you save that counts."

That comment, made by a Michigan farmer at one of the Grass Day demonstration programs sponsored by the Michigan State College extension service, tells a story.

Livestock specialists at Michigan State College point out that much can be saved in labor when animals are allowed to harvest much of their own food from the field. Winter rations consisting of a great amount of forage are less expensive than grain and concentrates for most animals.

Dr. C. R. Megee, assistant dean of agriculture at MSC and an authority on grasses and legumes, interprets "grassland farming" as using more grass and legumes where needed — not grass everywhere. Of greatest importance, he says, is better grass and legumes — high protein crops that are of high feeding value to livestock and that add organic matter and nitrogen to the soil.

Of the more than 3,000 counties in the United States, nearly all are served by county agricultural agents. Many counties also have home demonstration agents and 4-H Club agents.

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Hormones Used To Cut Stock Production Costs

Hormones like those doctors use on human patients are now, thanks to industrial research, being used to turn out livestock and poultry products at less expense.

The stock hormones are "coustims" of insulin — widely known in

the treatment of diabetes, and ACTH — used for arthritis. Their use for farm animals has been approved by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration, and farmers are expected to spend one million dollars for them this year.

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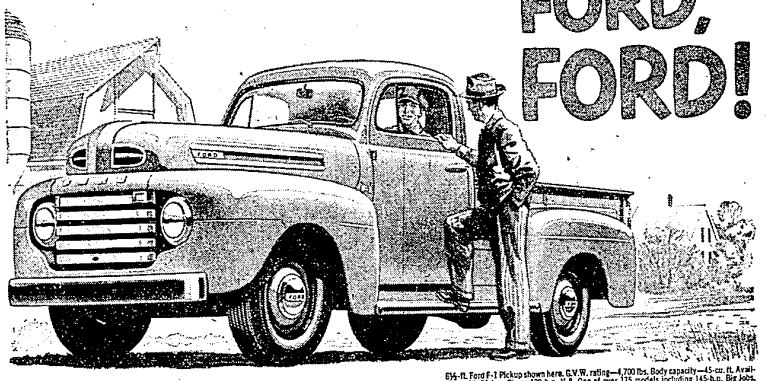
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