

FARM FEATURES

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Find Fertilizer Ups Hay Yields

Does fertilizer applied at the time of seeding of a legume with a spring grain crop pay off in the yield of alfalfa in following years? That question comes to Michigan State College crops and soils specialists often. During the Grass Day demonstrations over Michigan this year, living answers were shown to the visitors.

Plots were both fertilized and unfertilized on the best farms. On the average, the fertilized plots produced about 30 percent more unfertilized hay an acre than did the unfertilized areas. This figure approximately 1,000 pounds or a half-ton more cured hay an acre in the one cutting.

This, however, does not account for other cuttings of hay in that or subsequent years or the added yield in the spring grain. Ed Longnecker, soils science extension specialist, says grain yields averaged 10 to 25 percent greater when fertilizer was used at a rate of 400 pounds to the acre. Usually a 3-12 analysis was used.

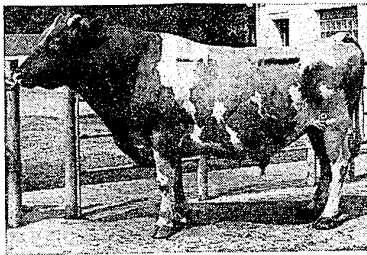
Longnecker says alfalfa in the fertilized plots had less tendency to winter kill than in unfertilized plots. He recommends a minimum of 300 pounds of fertilizer an acre at seeding time.

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Anchor Used By Artificial Breeders



GESOR PONTIFF'S ANCHOR 281510

A dairy herd with a substantial anchor to tie down its production values will be a better and more profitable herd. In this case, Anchor is the name of a Guernsey bull in use by the Michigan Artificial Breeders Cooperative, Inc., at East Lansing.

This bull, born in 1939 and bred at C. E. Sorenson Farms in Farmington, was used by Howard Colby at Romeo. In this location 17 daughters with 24 records averaged 10,114 milk and 475 fat. This yield was 1,354 pounds milk and 55.8 pounds fat improvement in the daughters over the dams.

Even though ten years old, Anchor has been used by the Michigan Artificial Breeders Cooperative, Inc. for the past year and has been recognized as one of the outstanding Guernsey sires in the organization.

The dam, named Cinderella, has outstanding records and is also the dam of another bull used by the MABCI. This second bull is known as Clair.

Start Rye Plantings To Provide Deer Food

Experimental rye plantings designed to provide supplemental food for deer have been started in seven northern lower peninsula counties.

As the result of recent conservation commission action, test patches of about 100 acres each will be completed before the end of the month in such overbrowed counties as Alpena, Iosco, Montmorency, Oscoda, Crawford, Roscommon, and Kalkaska.

In ordering the rye plantings, conservation commissioners emphasized that the program was an experimental one—but one which they believe should be tried in the attempt to solve the spring starvation problem.

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Lists Pointers For Grain Check

Stored grain should be examined every week or two for possible insect infestations, advises Ray L. Janes, extension entomologist at Michigan State College. Being alert, the best possible safeguard.

Grain should be dried out and cooled down as soon after storage as possible. Any conditions that tend to keep temperatures and moisture high are ideal for the development of insects.

Janes points out that fumigating of grain should be done only if given insects cause damage to the grain after it is stored. As precautions he lists the following steps, taken from MSC extension folder 134, "Prevent Damage to Stored Wheat":

1. Inspect grain every week for the presence of insects for two months after it has been stored or as long as the weather remains warm.
2. Be sure the granary is air-tight before using a fumigant to kill the insects in the grain. This means that the floor and sidewalls should be equally tight.
3. Covers placed over the top of fumigated grain should be air-tight, like building paper. Gunny sacks and porous material are no good for this purpose. Place covers about one foot above grain.
4. Use a mixture of ethylene dichloride and carbon tetrachloride for fumigation. County agricultural agents can give you more information about this standard fumigant for Michigan. It should be used at the rate of five gallons to each 1,000 bushels for grain in deep bins. Use one gallon to each 150 bushels for lots less than 1,000 bushels. For grain stored in shallow bins, use eight gallons to each 1,000 bushels.

EXPECT 2,000 FOR ANNUAL 4-H SHOW AT EAST LANSING

Top exhibitors among Michigan's rural youth will compete for the honor of being "champion" in more than 500 different classes and contests at the State 4-H Club Show at Michigan State College, East Lansing, August 29 to September 1.

It's their own "state fair" for nearly 60,000 members of Michigan's 4-H Clubs and more than 4,000 individual entries are expected for the thirty-fifth annual event.

National recognition has been given the Michigan event, not only because of its size, but because it is an exclusive "youth" show and is held on a college campus and not a fairgrounds.

A. G. Kettunen, state 4-H Club leader at Michigan State College, expects nearly 2,000 of the boys and girls to use dormitory and dining facilities on the campus during the week.

Although nearly \$20,000 in awards will be distributed to winners, the 10 to 21 year old rural youth usually seem more interested in the ribbon awards and the right to be "champion" 4-H leader point out.

Nearly 1,500 head of livestock is expected for the show. Many will be housed beneath the stands in Macklin stadium. Handicraft and conservation exhibits and entries in the egg show and "chicken of tomorrow" contest will be shown in demonstration hall. Crops and garden exhibits, clothing and food specialties will be in the college auditorium.

The Grist Mill

By ED ALCHIN
Black Leg Of Potatoes

The Farm Crops Department of Michigan State College informs us that black leg of potatoes is prevalent this summer. You can tell if your potatoes have black leg by noting the yellowing of the old (or base) leaves. Also if you cut open a root the inside will be black. If you have black leg there is very little you can do about it. It is wise to plant on new ground next year and start with clean seed.

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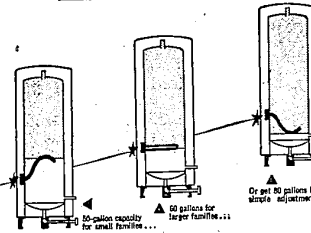
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