

Water is one of the main nutrients in a dairy feeding enterprise. Make sure your cows get plenty, advise Michigan State College extension dairymen. And a warm supply will pay dividends over the ice cold type.

Your little pigs will grow up to be better hogs, and grow more efficiently if you keep them worm-free, say Michigan State College swine specialists. Most pigs have worms, but they don't have to keep them, the MSC specialists point out.

FARM NEWS

START SAVING FUTURE LAMB CROP BY GOOD EVE CARE

Although your lambs won't be coming for a few weeks yet, now is the time to start saving the 1952 lamb crop, Harold Henneman, Michigan State College animal husbandryman, reminded flock owners of the state this week.

He said that practices followed this winter will go a long way in determining whether lambs are born strong and healthy, and thus have much profit you'll make. And proper feed and care for the ewe means more milk for the lamb and faster, cheaper starting gains.

"Ewes should gain about thirty pounds up to lambing time," Henneman said. "About half of this gain in weight is fat which is needed and used by the ewe during the nursing period."

Sheep that are in thrifty condition can be wintered until six weeks before lambing on about four pounds of alfalfa or clover hay per head per day. Another good ration is two pounds of leucaena hay and four or five pounds of corn silage. If you substitute hay silage for corn silage, extra grain will be needed.

Six weeks before lambing the ewe no longer has room to eat as much of these bulky feeds so a change in ration is needed. That's the time to start feeding a half to three-quarters of a pound of grain per head per day. This grain is needed to put on extra-gain in weight. A good grain mixture is 40 pounds of oats, 40 pounds of corn, 10 pounds of wheat bran and 10 pounds of oil meal. Or mixtures of half corn and half oats, or oats alone have given good results.

Trace mineral salt should be kept before the sheep at all times and fresh water provided. Best housing is a shed open to the south to protect the flock from rain and extremely cold winds.

This year's farm production costs are above those of last year. Next year they probably will go higher.

Measure The Feed For Dairy Cattle To Cut Costs And Boost Profits

A dairy cow that is giving ten pounds at a milking needs less than a pound of grain at a feeding if she is eating all the roughage she can hold. The same cow on the same roughage diet needs four times as much grain if she gives twice as much milk.

These facts have been pointed out by J. G. Hays, extension lecturer at Michigan State College. He says that dairymen must weigh or measure the feed given to every cow and keep a record of milk production if top profits are to be realized.

Hays advises farmers to try more or less grain per cow to see what effects it has on her milk production. If additional grain results in additional milk that is worth more than the cost of the grain, the farmer is profiting from the additional grain feeding.

"Wash basins, scoop shovels and old derby hats are, out of its satisfactory ways of measuring grain," Hays says, "because they are not accurate enough. Either weigh the grain or use a measure that is accurate, like a straight-sided pail. Of course, you won't have time to measure every feeding exactly, but you can come close without much extra trouble."

Keeping a record of the amount of grain fed to a cow is important if one is to avoid wasting grain. Another reason is that the cow's

Post Office Stamps To Honor 4-H Clubs

A teenage boy and girl, facing the 4-H Club cloverleaf emblem, are the stars of a new 4-H stamp. "Best Better," will appear on 110,000,000 4-H Club commemorative stamps, to go on sale in post-offices in mid-January.

A group of typical farm buildings also appears on the 4-H stamp, which will be dark green in color.

appetite is no safe guide as to the amount of grain she can profitably use in her business. If you have information on how much grain to feed your cows, ask your county agricultural agent for "Feeding the Dairy Cow in the Non-Pasture Season," Hays suggests. The real test is to figure in how much more milk will result than pay for itself. That's the key to figuring profits.

The Grist Mill

By Ed Alchin
County Agricultural Agent

In last week's column we mentioned the grain going to discuss in two or three articles some of the things that farmers could do about farm management planning during the winter months. So we hope you will be looking for these items for the next two or three weeks.

To start off — one of the most important problems that is facing farmers in 1952 is keeping their machinery in good condition. Many folks who would be in the "know" saying that new machinery may be in somewhat short supply before the end of 1952, which certainly points up the need for a good systematic method of caring for your machinery.

The first step is to go over your machinery and look for worn parts that probably will need replacement before planting and harvesting time is finished this year. The next step is to place orders for these parts. A good method for this is to keep your record straight is to get same bar tags from your local elevator so that you can tag the part on the machine with the number on it. This makes it easy for quick identification of the parts as they come.

This will also help your machinery dealer to re-order spare parts while they are still available so that you can get them in time for placement orders during planting and harvest time can be most readily filled.

Another phase of farm management which can be done at the present time is preparation of your crop rotation for next year and the ordering of fertilizer and seeds that will be necessary to get the crop in. Another excellent job to do at the present time is to plan your pasture program as part of the cropping system on the farm.

Next week we will hit soil management and crop rotation and the following week we will go into planning the livestock feeding program.

SPECIALIST URGES: CLEAN UP TO MAKE FARM SHOPS SAFE

Farm shops may be safe places to work or they may be accident and fire traps.

With this in mind, David G. Steinicke, extension specialist in health and safety organization, calls on Michigan farmers to remodel, rearrange and clean up their work-shops now, during the winter. This extra effort may save you a finger or serious fire, he believes.

Steinicke lists these ways to make your farm shop safer. Reserve one side of the shop for repairing large machines. Paint the interior with a light color and use large windows to improve lighting. Have a definite storage space for tools and supplies to keep everything in its place.

Steinicke also advises against using gasoline or fuel oil for washing mechanical parts where there are open flames. And do not leave waste and oily rags to accumulate.

Keep heating stoves, pipes and chimney outlets. He points out that defective chimneys are a main cause of winter fires.

Use guards over moving pulleys and belts of power machinery. Don't wear loose clothing while working with power equipment. Keep goggles handy to protect your eyes.

As a final reminder, he says to have a place for everything and everything in its place.

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MSC ANNOUNCES FARMERS' WEEK DAIRY PROGRAM

Michigan farmers attending the dairy programs during Farmers' Week at Michigan State College this week are going to find the programs quite changed from previous years. "We want to give our dairymen a chance to find the answers to the problems bothering them. That's why we're having a more informal type program this year," reports Dr. Earl Weaver, head of the department.

The Monday, January 28 "Dairy Day" program is about as usual, with the general session for dairymen in the morning and breed association meetings in the afternoon and evening. Fred Idste, Beloit, Wisconsin, will be the main speaker discussing: "Why Purebred Dairy Cattle." Idste is secretary of the Brown Swiss Breeders of America and also of the Purebred Dairy Cattle association.

Tuesday through Thursday, January 29 through 31, the morning dairy programs will be held in the East Concourse beneath Mackinac Field Stadium. Here Dr. C. F. Huffman of the MSC staff will show some of the research work being done in dairy nutrition and exhibit the amazing Research News newspaper questions.

Afternoon programs will be at the new dairy housing research and test farm, a mile south of the main campus on Forest and College Roads. Farmers will visit the new center and hear discussions of the labor saving methods made available by D. L. Murray, extension dairyman, and B. F. Cargill, agricultural engineer, will lead the discussions. The dairy barns and the Michigan Artificial Breeding cooperation bull stud will be open for inspection.

Issues Booklet

The Michigan Inter-Agency Council for Recreation, representing 14 state agencies, has issued a booklet, "Missing Recreation News with Resources" pointing out recreation and related services available to communities, schools and organizations with recreation problems.

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