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FARM NEWS

Hannah To Speak At Farmers' Week

Pres. John A. Hannah and Dr. Thomas K. Cowden have been announced as two of the three general speakers for Michigan Farmers' Week late in January.

It will be the first time since resumption of Farmers' Week following World War II that campus speakers have been asked to fill the afternoon general sessions in the MSC college auditorium.

Dr. Cowden, head of the department of agricultural economics and former director of research for the American Farm Bureau Federation, will speak on Tuesday, January 29. President Hannah will fill the afternoon program assignment on Wednesday, January 30.

"We have had many requests from farmers to hear these two staff members and we have convinced them that they have much to offer in the way of clear thinking and sound judgment," commented Dean E. L. Anthony, chairman of the speakers committee. Both President Hannah and Dr. Cowden have attracted national attention with their addresses, and we thought our own folks should have a chance to hear from them."

Another feature at the general session programs following the addresses will be a television production demonstration.

Reveal Practices Used For Getting Record Potato Yield From 8 Acres

If you want to get potato yields of over 1,000 bushels per acre, ask Hans van Acker of Wallace, in Menominee County, how to do it.

His 1951 yield on an 8-acre field added up to 1,061 bushels, according to official records reported to D. L. Clannahan of the Michigan State College farm crops department. The 8-acre field got some extra special care as you might guess.

First of all it got 15 loads of barnyard manure to the acre in the fall of 1950 and another 15 loads per acre in the spring of 1951. Commercial fertilizer was applied, too. Just before planting van Acker put on 200 pounds of the acre of 020-20. At planting time he put on 1,000 pounds of 3-12-12 to the acre.

The field was seeded to sweet clover and oats in 1950, and 300 pounds of 3-12-12 was put on that crop. The sweet clover was plowed down as green manure on May 25, 1951, and the potatoes planted on May 28. Most of the weeds were taken care of by the oats-sweet clover crop, but to further insure against weed competition van Acker dragged the field six times before plowing. He went over the field with a weeder twice and a cultivator three times during the season.

He planted Russett Rurals, spacing them twelve and a half inches apart in rows 32 inches apart. He used 31 bushels of seed to the acre. Blight was controlled with 10 sprays of dithane, and insects by four applications of DDT.

A frost hit the potato crop on September 29 and they were harvested soon after. Of the total yield of 1061 bushels per acre, 875.9 bushels per acre were graded U. S. No. 1's.

Fork Lift Trucks Aid Fruit Handling, Cut Cost

Use of fork lift trucks for handling fruit can cut equipment and labor needs, according to a cooperative study made by engineers of Michigan State College and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

A fork lift truck, which is capable of handling heavy loads through mechanical means, can aid any grower handling 10,000 or more crates of fruit a year, say H. P. Gaston and J. H. Levin, who conducted the study.

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The Grist Mill

By Ed Aehnle
County Agricultural Agent

The past weeks we have talked a little about some of the jobs that farmers could do in farm management during the coming year. Least of all is certainly not filling out the income tax. That is a job that you must do right away. Instructive bulletins can be obtained from our office.

In going on with suggestions for farm management during the winter months — so far, we have mentioned getting the farm manager acquainted with the crop rotation program, and ordering fertilizer, seed and lime. In addition, farmers should certainly consider the soil fertility program "cover-cropland" — a machine that uses a commercial sickle-type mower which cuts a 3-foot swath directly ahead of the power unit. A grain reel to aid in cutting the grain and sheet metal apron to catch the cut grain were transported to the mower. One man can transport and operate the machine.

Now they have a small unit for harvesting grain test plots. Though such a small machine wouldn't help much on a 40-acre grain field, it's a big advantage to research workers studying grain yields in small test plots.

Small Harvester Aids Study Of Grain At MSC

Agricultural research workers occasionally design a piece of equipment which will help them in their work. That's the case with a newly designed grain plot harvester at Michigan State College.

Soil scientists and agricultural engineers realized that standard harvesters are difficult to use on a small test plot of grain. They solved the problem by developing a "mower-crafter" — a machine that uses a commercial sickle-type mower which cuts a 3-foot swath directly ahead of the power unit. A grain reel to aid in cutting the grain and sheet metal apron to catch the cut grain were transported to the mower. One man can transport and operate the machine.

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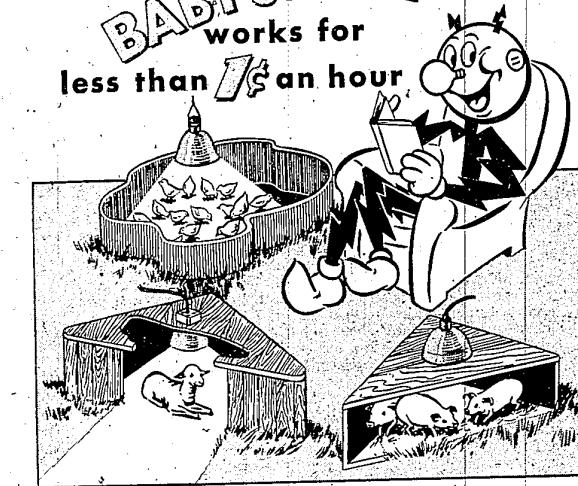


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Detroit Edison

Gives Precautions, Ideas In Handling Farm Axe

An axe is an important tool around the farmstead but it can be an extremely dangerous one, too, warns David Stoinke, extension specialist in health and safety organization at Michigan State College.

Among his suggestions for safely using an axe is to be sure that there are no limbs, clothes lines or other overhead obstructions on which it may catch. He also warns against gathering wood while someone else is chopping.

Never use an axe with a broken or split handle. Always make sure the head is securely wedged onto the handle. And always remember that even the most secure axe head can fly off — so keep other persons out of the line of swing.

New MSC Bulletin Tells Of Horse Breeding

Though use of draft horses has declined, a great interest in pleasure horses and general use horse-breeding has developed. Michigan State College animal husbandrymen have prepared a new bulletin describing production of moderate-priced horses from available stock.

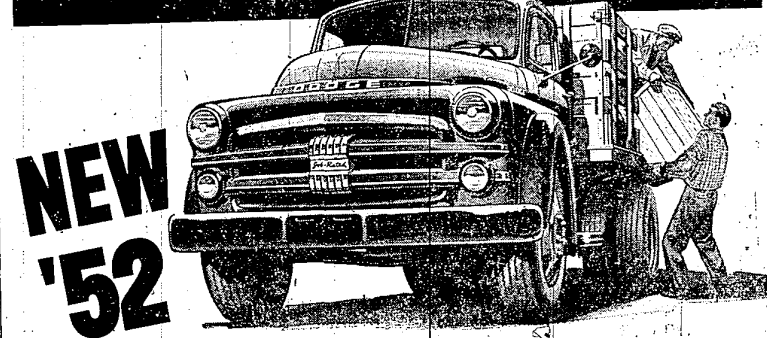
Titled "Breeding Arabian and Thoroughbred Stallions to Light and Heavyweight Grade Percheron Mares," the publication contains many pictures of horses resulting from breeding work at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station. Weights and descriptions of the horses are included.

A copy of the publication, special Bulletin 375, may be obtained at county agricultural agents' offices or by writing to the Bulletin Office, Department of Information Services, Michigan State College, East Lansing.

By joining an artificial insemination unit, you can eliminate the hazards of keeping a bull on the place. There are only two safe places to keep a bull — one in a well constructed pen on the farm, the other is in the artificial insemination bull stud.

West German coal production fell seven million tons short of meeting demands in the last six months of 1951.

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