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FARM NEWS

DAIRYMAN GIVES FEEDING POINTERS FOR DAIRY CALVES

Tests at Michigan State College and observations of farmers have resulted, in definite recommendations for feeding young dairy calves, reported this week by L. A. Johnson, extension dairyman at MSC.

Proper feeding has been found to be a major consideration in getting calves off to the right start. Johnson reports that the most satisfactory rate of feeding milk is one pound a day for each ten pounds of the calf weights. This means that an 80 pound calf should get about eight pounds or two thirds of four pounds each day. That's about two quarts twice a day.

Milk should be fed warm from the cow, not cold. One of the big problems is fast drinking which often leads to scouring troubles. Successful dairymen have found that drinking can be slowed by elevating the one in each corner. Many farmers report success with nipple pails, but point out that it's important to keep the pail and nipple clean.

Most dairymen prefer to start calves on whole grains at about two weeks of age. A mixture of three parts whole oats, three parts shelled corn and one part linseed or soybean oil meal has been used successfully. This mixture may be fed until the calves are about three months of age, when a ground grain mixture should be started. A recommended growing mixture is made up of 150 pounds of ground oats, 100 pounds of yellow corn meal, 100 pounds of wheat bran and 50 pounds of high protein concentrate.

MSC Bulletin Gives Early Tomato Tips Based On Research Studies

Winter gardeners — those people who dream of the earliest garden crops in the vicinity — will find valuable help in a new Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station bulletin.

"Early Tomato Production in Michigan," authored by S. H. Whitner and A. N. Reath, Michigan State College horticulturists, answers many questions about growing earlier tomatoes. Emphasis is on early market production rather than on growing the crop for processing. In many sections of the state, however, earlier production is equivalent to greater total yields because of the short growing season.

Only One-Third Young Pigs Live

About one-third of all pigs farrowed die before they are weaned so the care given sows and pigs during the first week after farrowing often means the difference between profit and loss.

Michigan State College animal husbandmen say that half of all pig losses occur during the first three days after they are farrowed. More successful hog raisers start protecting their investments even before the pigs are born.

Cleaning and disinfecting the farrowing pen thoroughly, and putting in guard rails is a part of their preparation. Another is washing and cleaning the sow before she enters the farrowing pen. The next important step is to be on hand when the pigs are farrowed.

After the pigs arrive, the first job is to see that each pig is clean and has its stomach warmed and filled with his first suckle of colostrum milk, the MSC swine specialists point out. Within the first few hours the small suckling teeth are cut off and the umbilical cord clipped and disinfected.

Make sure that bedding is clean and dry, and that guard rails are provided. See that the brooder is working properly and that the pigs are nested under it after they get their first milk.

Quiet and rest with little or no feed is best for the sow for the first 24 hours after farrowing. She should have plenty of lukewarm water available. The second day's feeding should be mostly a light ration like wheat bran and middlings, ground grain and a protein supplement. Start heavier feeding three to four days after farrowing and increase the feed gradually so that the sow is getting a full ration at the end of a week or ten days.

Sell Five Of Seven Conservation Farms

Five of seven small farm units, detached from southern state game area additions, were sold at conservation department public auctions for a total of \$15,490.

Two remaining units, the former Walk farm near Vandalla and the former Johnson farm near Hilldale, now can be purchased for minimum appraisal prices through the department's lands division office.

Assistant Agent Gives Fruit Container Points

It is a good practice to have fruits and vegetables available in peck, half-bushel and bushel containers as well as in small-sized packages or in bulk displays from which small sales can be made, reports Willard E. Bosserman, assistant county agriculture agent. Many people stop at a roadside stand or visit a retail market when they plan to buy larger amounts than they usually do at a retail store. Frequently they want enough for canning, jelly, making or to lay in a convenient supply at home.

And that apple sales are greatest when part of their apples are packed in mesh or plastic bags in addition to apples displayed in bulk. Why not try these five or eight pound bags for Fancy No. 1 apples in addition to the peck, half-bushel and bushel baskets? Some

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The Grist Mill

By Ed Alchin
County Agricultural Agent

Oakland County members of the Michigan Livestock Exchange heard some interesting discussions at Clarkston on February 7. Maurice Hill, field representative of the Exchange, talked on the growth and development of the Exchange and also preventing injury to livestock. He pointed out that 70 million pounds of meat are lost by death and injury to livestock in one year. This represents a direct loss to farmers of 10 million dollars and the loss of enough food to feed a city of 500,000 people for one year.

A good share of this loss is man-inflicted and can be prevented, according to Mr. Hill, in less careless transportation and more humane treatment of animals. It would be a good idea for farmers to check up on their truckers and themselves to see about preventing these losses.

Four dairy herds had over 500 pounds of butterfat, according to the annual reports of Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Oakland County's four leaders in the select group were Lakefield Farms with 656 pounds; Oliver Acres, 571 pounds; Pine Row Farms, 531; and Ousanner and Crawford, 526 lbs.

If you are not getting good yields from your cattle, each of these factors should be investigated in your own management plan.

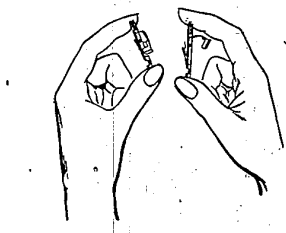
Booster feeding through plant leaves shows promise

Many plants and trees absorb food through their leaves. This discovery opens up possibilities of larger, faster-growing crops by applying additional fertilizer as a spray. Michigan State College Agricultural Experiment Station is studying ways of making leaf feeding practical to the average grower. Among plants which respond readily to nutrition through their leaves are tomato, celery and corn, as well as apple trees. Best results have been obtained by spraying relatively low concentrations of plant food during the spring and early summer. As more information is obtained, it will be available to you by calling, writing, or visiting your County Agricultural Agent.



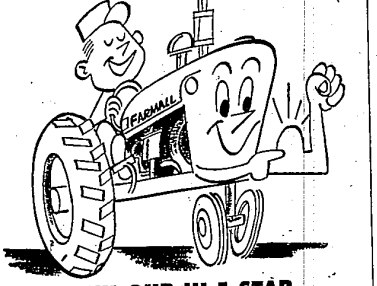
New life for old grasshoppers

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grape growers have increased their grape sales by using two quart baskets as well as the four quart, eight quart and peck containers. Customers want a dependable pack, whatever its grade or quality may be. They want a uniform quality and reasonably uniform sizes throughout. No one has to find that he has bought a "stopped" package. The wood duck nests in a tree.

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