

# FARM NEWS

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Woodpecker Cleans House For Pair Of Flickers

A pilated woodpecker, largest U. S. species, has spring house-cleaning for two flickers returning to the same tree hole at the state park at Brimley for the past three years.

Once chores are done the flickers move in, says park manager Dave Blalough.

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## The Grist Mill

By Ed Alchin  
 County Agricultural Agent

Last week we told you that the Soil Conservation District Board of Directors, in cooperation with the Michigan Flying Farmers, is planning an air tour for northeast Oakland County. To fill in some of the holes, here are some of the points of interest that will be covered by the tour, to be held June 6, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. in case of bad weather, the tour will be held on June 6.

The flights will leave Allen's Airport, located on Silverbell Road one mile west of M-24, Pontiac Motor Plant, Lake Angelus Observatory and Waterford Hill will be on the first leg of the tour. From Waterford Hill the tour will go to Deer Lake Farms, the Oscar McNeal Farm and the Robert Kerley Farm where diversions, terrace systems and a tree planting program will be observed on the second leg of the trip.

The third leg of the tour will fly over the farm of Joe Spiccia to observe drainage, the Oxford Gravel pits, the largest of their kind in the world, and a contour orchard on the A. T. Markwood farm.

The fourth leg of the flight will cover the Keith Middleton Farm where strip cropping and terracing have been established, the Paul Best Farm showing tree planting, the Earl Braid Farm with a sodden hillside, and the Wallace Hodges Farm where strip cropping will be seen. This will conclude the flight which will take about 30 minutes of time.

Tickets may be obtained from the Oakland County Extension Office, the Soil Conservation Office, or any of the District Directors, who are Earl Braid and Keith Middleton of Lake Orion, Ray Wheeler and Earl Voorheis of Davidsburg and Harold Mitchell of Grand Blanc.

## Feeding Prospects Up For Hog Raisers

The ratio which shows how many bushels of corn are equal in value to 100 pounds of live hog now indicates that prospects are becoming better for hog production.

Robert C. Kramer, Michigan State College agricultural economist, points out that the best of the crop producing 100 pounds of live hog compared with the selling price leaves some profit. But he says that several factors indicate this relationship will become even better by this fall.

Soft corn and a "short" crop has made the price of corn higher during the past six months than a year earlier. Hog prices have averaged a little lower than a year ago.

## Seeding Failures Can Be Averted By Following Good Cultural Methods

Better seedings in oats and barley are possible by observing a few tips from farm crop specialists at Michigan State College. Good cultural methods, plus a new method of seeding, help do the job.

Soil should be right, they say, with a pH (acidity) rating of six or above. Your county agricultural agent can help you check the pH of the soil. If pH is below six, lime should be added, especially for alfalfa. Use 400 pounds of 0-20-20 fertilizer per acre at time of seeding.

The drill should be set so the seed falls behind the disk. Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station tests in 1951 got twice as good a stand when seed fell behind disks as when it fell in front of the disks. When dropped in front, seed was covered too deeply.

Multiplexing after seeding is a valuable practice, too. Band seeding is a new method of improving seeding in oats and barley. To do it, add a piece of garden hose two and one-half feet long to tubes leading from small seeding attachment, and wrap the hose back of the disks so seed falls on top of the ground. It should fall eight inches behind the disks to get seed directly above fertilizer for a quick boost in seeding growth.

Band seeding is especially valuable on poor soil or when the season is dry, the farm crop specialists say. Experiments at East Lansing gave a 43 per cent better stand of alfalfa by using band seeding as compared to conventional drill seeding.

Taking time to insure good seedlings helps reduce costly failures. Seedling failures behind the disks of expensive seed, soil erosion, lack of high quality roughage for livestock and breaking up of planned rotations with reduction in yield of following crops.

## HOT WEATHER POSES FLOCK OWNER PROBLEMS

Hot weather is coming along to pose some new egg marketing problems for flock owners of Michigan. William A. Aho, Michigan State College poultry specialist, has some suggestions along this line.

He says that eggs should be gathered often and stored in a moist place at a temperature of about 55 degrees to maintain good quality. Also they should be marketed at least twice a week.

Most all flock owners feel they have to wash eggs at one time or another. Aho cites work done at the New Jersey Experiment Station which seems to have the answer for doing the job right.

Their work shows that eggs can be collected in wire baskets and dunked in a detergent solution made at the rate of one-half pint detergent to six gallons of water. The solution should be about 140 degrees and the eggs should be rinsed after dunking with a clean, forced spray of tap water at 140 degrees.

## Commercial Fishing For Pike Starts

Commercial fishing season for northern pike and yellow perch or walleye now is under way in Lakes Michigan and Superior, according to the conservation department.

Sport fishing also is legal for these species in these lakes.

Other commercial seasons recently opened are: northern pike in Lake Huron, and yellow perch and suckers in all three lakes.



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## REGISTRATION NOTICE

The Farmington Township Office In The Town Hall Will Be Open MONDAY, JUNE 2, 1952 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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HARRY McCracken  
 Township Clerk

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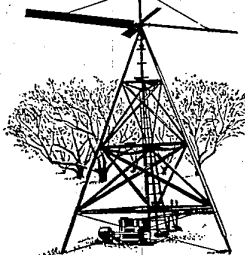
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## Helicopter rotor helps control orchard frost damage

This 22-foot helicopter rotor, spinning atop a 20-foot tower at a Michigan State College test installation at Beulah, Michigan, was found to reduce danger of frost damage under certain conditions. Night temperatures at 300 feet are sometimes 20 degrees warmer than those nearer the ground, and the helicopter rotor pulls down the warmer air and mixes it with the cooler ground air. In one test, the ground temperature 40 feet out from the machine rose from 26 to 35 degrees within a half hour after the rotor started. When orchard heaters were used with the wind machine in the same test, the temperature went from 25 to 35 degrees. For more information on this new weapon against frost damage in fruit orchards, write or telephone your County Agricultural Agent.



Efficiency speeds rural telephone service

In telephone work as in farm work, experience generally adds up to newer, better, faster ways of doing things. The men who see adding more telephone wire and cable in rural Michigan are plenty of telephone experience behind them. Last year alone they used that experience to increase by 9,000 the number of telephones in Michigan Bell rural areas. Today, 3 out of 4 establishments in Michigan Bell rural territory have telephones. And we're adding more just as fast as we can.

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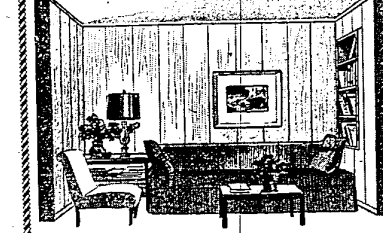
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