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FARM NEWS

CAN RAISE LABOR INCOME ON MANY DAIRY FARMS

A dairyman who starts out with average cows and average efficiency can triple his labor income by improving the quality of his cows, by adopting the best production practices, and by adding enough cows to use up the increased feed produced.

That's what Ray Hoglund, Michigan State College agricultural economist, found in a recent study. He says that the "major factor contributing to inefficient dairy production is too small a volume of business. Many farms are small in both tillable acres and cows kept per farm."

Hoglund points out that although dairy farming has become more specialized in recent years, the average number of cows milked on Michigan farms where cows are kept was still only slightly more than seven by 1930. Nine out of ten dairy farms in Michigan have less than 20 cows and about half have less than ten cows.

Research shows that an economical number would be about 20 to 25 cows on a one-man specialized dairy farm and somewhat less on a more general dairy farm. Such a farm would have about 150 acres of cropland.

"If the producing capacity of average Michigan dairy farms were raised to 350 pounds, milk output would be boosted 45 percent with no change in the number of cows," Hoglund says. The 1931 D.M.H.A. average per cow was 373 pounds of butterfat.

Better choice of crops, use of more fertilizer and lime, better timing of operations and use of better cropping practices to increase crop, hay and pasture yields also would economically increase the volume of business on dairy farms.

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Pullorum Control Methods Listed By M. S. C. Poultry Specialist

Michigan flock owners who want to establish and maintain pullorum-free chickens were told how this week by Howard Zindel, Michigan State College extension poultryman.

Zindel reported 14 points which came out of the pullorum disease eradication conference held recently. They were listed by leading poultry disease experts in the nation as a basis for keeping the disease out of the flock.

All the birds on the farm should be tested each year. If infection is present, the entire flock should be retested within four to six weeks until a negative report is obtained. If the value of the birds justifies the cost.

Every reactor, regardless of its value, should be removed from the premises and sold for slaughter immediately upon receiving the report. Offal from all birds dressed for market or home consumption, as well as dead birds, should be burned.

Zindel said that poultry houses, pens and equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected immediately after taking out reactors. He suggests an empty house be provided to each laying flock easier during the winter months. Disinfectants approved by the U. S. Department of Agriculture should be used.

Birds taken to egg-laying contests, exhibitions and so on should be held in quarantine and determined free of disease before they are re-admitted to the flock. Adult birds, chicks and eggs bought for the flock should be from known pullorum-free flocks.

Eggs should not be saved for hatching until after a flock has been tested and all the infected birds removed. Early pullet testing will permit early hatching. Fertile eggs from unknown or infected sources should not be fed to chickens or exposed to birds or animals that may carry or spread the infection. Foot-cyren should be kept on a hot bath for untested or infected flocks.

Owners of pullorum-disease-free flocks should not have hatching done where infected eggs or stock would be found. Poultrymen should avoid buying feed in bags that have been used or exposed to infection unless properly disinfected. Other feed should be regarded as possible sources of pullorum infection unless tested and found free from the disease, Zindel warned.

So much has been written about Greece and the wild resistant Ranger alfalfa, both of north central origin, it is refreshing to hear about Atlantic alfalfa that was developed on the Eastern Seaboard for eastern conditions.

It was bred at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station to meet the need for a variety adapted to eastern soils and climates. Ten years of widespread testing have shown that it not only meets this purpose, but also performs well in other areas of North America. In fact, no other variety has been so consistently high yielding over so wide an area of the United States.

Atlantic represents a combination of more than 100 strains and varieties, introduced from points throughout North America, Europe and Asia. It is probable the variety's outstanding performance under a wide range of growing conditions is a direct result of the large number of plant types which entered into its ancestry.

Ninety-eight separate tests of Atlantic in comparison with other leading varieties have been listed in the Reports of the Uniform Alfalfa Nurseries. These tests represent 30 states and 3 Canadian provinces, with an average of 3 years' data for each location. Throughout the entire group of tests Atlantic outyielded Buffalo, Kansas Common and Ojima by an average of 10%.

The Grist Mill By Ed Aitchin County Agricultural Agent

General crop conditions around Oakland County at this time are especially good. They look like a bumper crop this year, although somewhat less than last year's crop due to earlier dry weather. Corn is ahead of the average here on most farms with wheat doing remarkably well.

I see that many farmers started buying this week for the annual word of caution — be sure your hay is right before putting it in the barn. As you know, many barns burn down every year because of hay being too wet.

For those of you putting up grass silage, be sure to run two or three loads of extra green material on to the top of the silo. This will have a tendency to flatten out and weigh down the silage underneath and a great deal of spoilage will be had. Farmers report that they have had a great success in preventing spoilage in hay crop silage by tramping this every day or so for a week or two. Many also refill after about two weeks. However, those farmers with small acreages of hay may find this impossible since their hay will all be harvested.

The pole method of thinning peaches is done with a pole about four feet long, reports Willard E. Bosserman, Assistant County Agricultural Agent. A piece of garden hose about 18 inches long is attached to the end of the pole. Peaches are thinned when the fruits are about the size of hickory nuts. The job is accomplished by striking small branches with a sharp rap. Nearly a third of the peaches will fall. It will be necessary to take a few off by hand.

A demonstration on pole thinning of peaches was held at Jueng Brothers Orchard, two miles south of Rochester on Rochester Road, on Friday, June 23. Karl D. Bailey, district horticultural agent, demonstrated thinning, and also care of peach tree canker.

Some small fruit growers find it between stakes is effective in keeping birds from eating fruit. It comes in 30 foot lengths which is cut into ten-foot lengths for better distribution.

While not believed to be the case at Gilets and Fremont Lakes, the department points out that losses do occur as the result of the weakened condition of fish following spring spawning.

Fish Die Off In Two Michigan Lakes

Die-off of fish in Fremont Lake, Newago County, and Gilets Lake, Jackson County, is reported by the conservation department.

Fremont fish kill appears to be general all over the lake and in an inlet stream, with all species involved. Investigation is underway.

Being probed are reports that the Gilets die-off is the result of careless aerial spraying of cottage areas.

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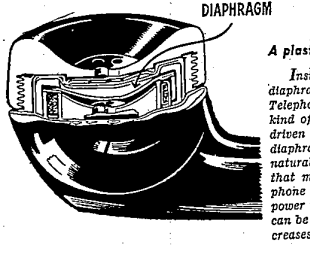
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Colored lights speed culling of cherries

Colored lights help sorters of fruits and vegetables to detect small but important defects before processing. In a new technique developed in the agricultural engineering department of Michigan State College, plain white, blue and red fluorescent lights were tested. Under blue fluorescent light, sorters spotted defects 10 to 30% more efficiently than under white fluorescent. Under red fluorescent, sorter efficiency increased an average of 64% over white. Red light proved especially effective in culling cherries. For more information, call your County Agricultural Agent.



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 A plastic makes listening easier

Inside your telephone receiver a sensitive diaphragm reproduces the sounds you hear. Bell Telephone Laboratories have developed a new kind of diaphragm made of stiff, light plastic, driven by a magnetic-metal ring. This new diaphragm reproduces the human voice more naturally than before, lets you hear higher tones that make a voice more personal. Also, telephone lines need deliver only a third as much power to work this new receiver, so less wire can be used. Once again telephone research increases the quality of service, keeps costs down.

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