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# FARM NEWS

### ADVISE FARMERS TO USE CERTIFIED LOCAL SEED ONLY

Many farmers are beginning to think about seed for the wheat crop to be planted this fall. S. C. Hildebrand, Michigan State College extension specialist in farm crops, has some suggestions based on research tests and experiences of farmers.

Both soft white winter and soft red winter wheats are recommended for Michigan depending on the section of the state. The hard red winter wheats are not recommended because they do not produce typical hard wheat. Therefore, a dockage may result if the soft and hard types become mixed on the farm or at the elevator.

Hildebrand recommends purchasing seed wheat from local seed and seed producers. They are interested in your business year after year while salesmen who travel from farm to farm selling seed at high prices may never try to sell you seed wheat again. For this reason, local dealers may be more dependable. In some cases, salesmen from other areas may sell seed which is not even adapted to your farm.

The Michigan State College specialist also points out that seed certified by the Michigan Crop Improvement Association is of high varietal purity and is more free from mixtures of other wheat and rye. Such seed is as good or better than any available and can usually be obtained locally at reasonable prices.

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### Paving Barn Lot Makes Work Easier During Spring, Says Ag. Engineer

"When farm work slackens this fall, you may want to consider paving your barn lot to make next spring's work easier," suggests J. S. Boyd, Michigan State College agricultural engineer.

He has some pointers for doing a better job. The barn lot is most useful if the area is sunny and has some protection from prevailing westerly winds for the south or east side of the barn. Or a board fence between buildings may turn the wind. You need only a little protection.

### The Grist Mill

By Ed Aichin  
County Agricultural Agent

Following is information from the "Michigan Farm Economics News" which will not have much of interest to folks in the county. All wheat production this year is forecast at 1.3 billion bushels, second largest on record. Despite the low price, I thought might be wheat acreage allotments or marketing quotas for the 1953 crop. U. S. D. A. will try to cope with the huge wheat supply by setting a price of 1.10 per bushel. This will probably be ineffective as long as the support or loan price on wheat appears attractive to farmers.

Demand for dairy products, particularly fluid milk, will continue to be strong. Milk production during the first five months of 1952 was slightly below last year and the ten-year average. Prices may make more than the average seasonal rise before November.

New legislation regarding price supports included in the Defense Production Act will not have much effect on farm prices. The new law releases controls on fruits and vegetables and calls for mandatory support on "basic" commodities to 90 per cent of parity. It has already been announced that the prices of these commodities will be supported at 90 per cent of parity during this crop year. Other commodities will be supported according to the provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1949.

Egg prices are moving upward seasonally. Differences in prices between top quality and under-grades are widest during the summer months. Producers with good quality eggs will find it especially profitable during this season to sell their eggs to buyers who pay on the basis of grade.

### State Seedling Production Increased 50 Per Cent

The conservation department's Higgins Lake nursery is expanding 50 per cent in order to better handle the demand for red, white and jack pine seedlings.

Each year the nursery distributes millions of seedling trees for reforestation purposes only, but in recent years the demand has exceeded the supply. Stock is distributed at cost, and may not be resold or otherwise used commercially.

The new nursery addition of 15 acres, to be added to the original 30-acre nursery, is being cleared and probably will be in operation next year.

Boyd suggests a goal of 100 square feet per cow in the paved area. You may want additional earth barn lot for drier weather.

Clean the lot before you pave, fill in spongy spots, and grade down high spots. Sand or gravel four to six inches deep, will keep the lot from settling after the concrete is laid. A gravel base also helps reduce damage from frost heaving.

The finished paving will need to be several inches below the inside barn floor level. That lets doors swing free and keeps water from running into the barn. Boyd recommends a full four inches of good quality concrete. If there will be heavy traffic, such as loaded wagons or trucks, the concrete should be reinforced with welded wire mesh.

It is a good idea to dig a foot-deep trench around the edges of the paved area. Fill this with sand the same as under the rest of the barn lot. This will help keep out rodents, prevent undercutting from erosion or cracking of vehicles driven onto the pavement.

Don't wait too long to start the job this fall. Boyd warns that concrete should never be laid over frozen ground.

### EXCITEMENT GAINS AS STATE 4-H SHOW DATE NEARS

Excitement among the 60,000 Michigan 4-H Club boys and girls mounts as State Show time nears. Highest honor will go to the two boys and two girls who earn top honors in the achievement booth competition. They will earn a trip to the National 4-H Club Camp in Washington next June.

Premium books are out, listing rules and requirements as well as judges and superintendents in the wide range of 4-H Club projects. Verne Freeman, acting state club leader, announces that the members will be housed in Shaw Hall on the MSC campus again this year.

Last week training and eliminations were held at Gaylord for members in the northern part of the lower peninsula. On July 28 a week-long 4-H Club Week began at Camp Shaw in Chatham for Upper Peninsula members. Freeman said.

Final judging and eliminations will be held in East Lansing the first two weeks in August to pare down contestants for the State Show. Members in the lower part of Michigan are now participating in these semi-final eliminations at MSC this week end. Northern Michigan youngsters will come in August 11 and 12 to determine which members will earn the privilege of competing in the State Show.

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### TOP AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS TO MEET AT MSC AUGUST 15 - 22

Approximately 400 of the world's top agricultural economists will be on the Michigan State College campus at East Lansing August 15 to 22 to attend the eighth International Conference of Agricultural Economists.

Purpose of the seven-day event, which hasn't been held in the U. S. since 1930, is to promote international understanding of agricultural economic programs and provide a medium for the exchange of ideas from nation to nation.

Non-governmental in nature, the conference will be held in the Kellogg Center. Michigan State will serve as host to the event which is being sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation, Battle Creek.

Top international economists will deliver scientific papers and participate in workshop discussions of the economic problems of the world.

President of the group since its founding more than 20 years ago has been Dr. Leonard Elmhirst, president of Dartington Hall, England.

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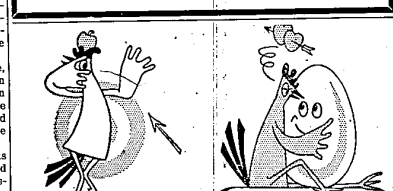
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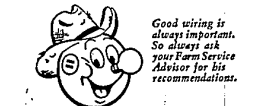
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cleaner and a milk house water heater. And recently, a third electric hay dryer was installed. Mr. Ott is enthusiastic about the use of electricity, says it reduces farm operating costs and increases production. You, too, will find it profitable to give more jobs to this "wired hand." For further information, see your Edison Farm Service Advisor.



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