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# FARM NEWS

## REED GRASS TURNS MUCK LAND INTO IDEAL PASTURE

Wet mucklands that are normally too wet for other crops can make highly productive pasture areas if seeded to reed canary grass, according to D. L. Clannahan, Michigan State College farm crops specialist.

The summer months, when the water table is low, make an ideal time to clear, plow and fit these areas. Reed canary grass should be planted before August 15. If this is not possible, then late fall seeding after the growing season has passed has proved satisfactory, Clannahan said. He explained that in this case the seed lies dormant until the following spring.

Five pounds of seed per acre is the recommended amount. Fertilizer also should be applied at the rate of 200 to 400 pounds to the acre. Clannahan recommends a fertilizer high in potash and phosphate such as 0-20-20, 0-3-27 or 0-10-20. The seeding should be followed with a roller to firm the soil. This operation often spells the difference between success and failure of a seeding.

Clannahan said that new reed canary grass seedlings will need a year to become established. If annual weeds are thick, a clipping is recommended to reduce competition. The grass will furnish a long grazing period and is green when many other grasses become dry and woody.

After summer fairs and exhibits, show stock should be isolated from the home animals for at least 30 days. If the show animals are healthy at the end of this period, they may be put back into the herd.

## He's Going to the State Fair



Little Mike Hess of Clarkston is getting Lakefield Farms' prize Oxford Ram ready for the Michigan State Fair, Aug. 29 through Sept. 7. The ram was the Grand Champion of the 1951 State Fair. The two year old seems to take his shearing job seriously.

## Farmers Invited To 4-H Club Fair

The annual 4-H Club and Agricultural Fair began August 12 and will continue through August 16 at the 4-H Fair grounds located on M-24 and Pontiac Road on the northeast side of Pontiac.

All farmers interested in livestock and kids should attend this affair. The boys and girls showing at this annual summer show need the support of the farm folk in the county.

Livestock, crops, garden, handicraft, foods and needlework will be exhibited for your appreciation. 4-H Club Agent and Fair Manager John Bray and the directors of the 4-H Leaders Association have done an exceptionally good job in the preparation of a fine program.

Educational exhibits including one put on by the county agent will be on hand. The county agent exhibit will show the effect of fertilizer on wheat when sowed in different amounts.

## WOOD CHEMICAL CUTS FENCE MAINTENANCE COST

The cost of maintaining fences can be materially reduced by the use of chemical wood preservatives and Lester D. Bell, Michigan State College forestry specialist, has figures to prove it.

He says that it is a matter of simple arithmetic. If a post costs \$1.25, it costs 50 cents in labor to set it and staple the fence to it, you have a total cost of \$1.75. If a post costs \$1.25, it costs you 25 cents per year of service.

If, on the other hand, you take the same post at 75 cents, add 25 cents worth of chemical preservative, and then add the 50 cents labor cost to set it, your post has cost you \$1.50. This is where preservatives really pay off, because the treated post can be expected to last three times as long as an untreated post—15 years.

With 15 years of life, the annual cost of the treated post is ten cents a year as compared with 25 cents a year for the untreated post. You also save the labor and trouble of resetting the other two untreated posts it would take to cover the 15-year span, Bell points out.

Several chemicals are satisfactory for treating fence posts. He suggests that you contact your county agricultural agent or write to the forestry department at Michigan State College, East Lansing, for further information.

## Suggests Ways To Halt Milk Production Drop

Many dairymen find it practical to sow some Balbu rye in August for late fall and early spring pasture.

Planting about an acre for each three cows in the herd usually will furnish about two weeks of grazing in the fall, plus feed in the spring before regular pastures are ready, according to L. A. Johnson, MSC extension dairyman.

Johnson pointed to the fact that milk production per cow declined in July as shown by reports of DHI's in Michigan. This follows the usual trend after reaching a high point in May and June. The low point usually is reached in November.

A shortage of feed due to less pasture growth is the main reason for the drop in production in the fall months.

## State 4-H Show Set To Open August 26

The cream of Michigan's crop of 60,000 boys and girls who are 4-H Club members will engage in friendly competition the last of this month at the 37th annual State 4-H Club Show. The event is slated to begin August 26 on the Michigan State College campus in East Lansing.

Some 2,000 boys and girls are expected to be on campus for the 4-day event. They will exhibit more than 5,000 entries in 500 divisions and classes.

## NOW IS THE TIME ... TO BUILD A NEW LAWN

or improve the bare spots in old lawns. Fall seeded lawns usually do better because there is not so much danger of summer heat and drought.

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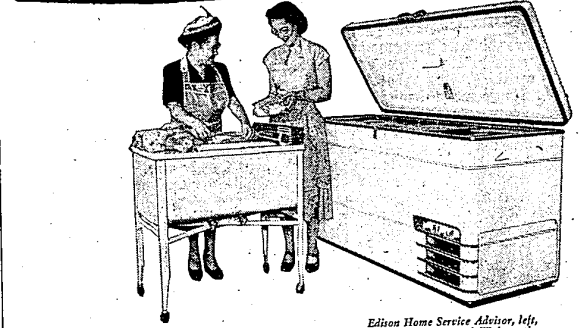
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Edison Home Service Advisor, left, shows Mrs. Desmond Walters the latest technique in wrapping foods for freezing. The Walters' 70-cubic-foot freezer is always well-stocked with good things to eat.

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