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MILK PRODUCTION INCREASED DURING MONTH OF AUGUST

The price paid to producers in the Detroit milkshed for Class I milk in August was \$5.278 per hundred pounds, F.O.B. Detroit, with Class II milk bringing a return of \$5.714 a cwt. On Class I the increase amounted to 25.1 cents and the price was 42.8 cents above that for August a year ago. Of the increase on Class I, 15 cents resulted from an additional premium as provided under the Federal milk marketing order supply and demand provision and the additional 10.1 cents represents the rise in manufacturing prices based on the amount paid farmers by the 13 midwest condenseries named in the Federal order.

In reporting to members of the Michigan Milk Producers Association, Howard P. Simmons, secretary-manager, stated that production in the area showed an increase of 3.27 per cent in August over July and 8.75 per cent more than in August 1951. Consumption of fluid milk increased 1.25 per cent above a year ago, he stated.

On Class II milk, which is sold for manufacturing purposes, the increase over July was just under ten cents a hundred pounds, based entirely on prices paid by manufacturers without seasonal variation which applies only to Class I milk.

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Fire Prevention Bureau Reminds Farmers Of Added Rural Hazards

Farm fires last year took thousands of lives and destroyed \$100,000,000 worth of property, much of it badly-needed food supplies, the National Board of Fire Underwriters reported this week and warned that this was a "matter of growing concern."

The swift advance of science and technology have brought many new hazards to the farm, it pointed out.

"The farm today," NBFU observed, "has all the hazards of a machine shop, a factory, gasoline station and a paint shop, combined with buildings frequently containing some of the most combustible substances known to man—hay and straw."

In warning farmers that the loss of food supplies, vital to the

country's welfare and that of free nations abroad, are mostly the result of individual carelessness and faulty building construction, the NBFU called for many more years of community efforts for greater fire safety everywhere.

In its Fire Prevention Week statement, NBFU pointed out that farm fires in general result in almost total loss. "Unlike buildings in urban areas where fire protection and water supplies are adequate, those in farm areas are often completely destroyed when they catch fire," it said.

In telling of the causes of farm fires, the NBFU said that increased use of gasoline-burning farm machinery and electrical equipment have created many new fire hazards and advised farmers to store large quantities of gasoline in underground tanks equipped with standard pumps.

"Smaller supplies should never be kept in barns, but should be stored in metal drums in well-ventilated sheds at least 400 feet from all buildings," it said.

"Electrical machinery," it added, "should be installed where there is no danger that hay and grain dust may be ignited by a spark and all machinery should be cleaned and oiled regularly to prevent overheating."

Other advice to farmers is to make certain that heavy electrical appliances have separate power circuits; that electric lights in barns are equipped with guards and out of reach of all animals; that no person carelessly uses matches, lighted cigarettes, pipes or cigars.

In conclusion, the NBFU noted that lightning is a leading cause of farm fires in many parts of the country, causing one out of every three farm fires. To offset this menace, it advised complete protection by proper installation of lightning rods.

Farmers have long been troubled by fences that needed repairing just at planting time, harvest time, or whenever work piled up elsewhere.

But during the last four and a half years, some southern Michigan farmers have answered this problem by using the conservation department's multiflora rose program. When planted in rows, the hardy multiflora grows into a thick living hedge within a few years.

Introduced here in 1948 as part of Michigan's answer to the need for game habitat, multiflora provides good cover and food supplies for rabbits, pheasants and other wildlife.

But farmers found it also presents a chance to develop a self-building fence system. To date, about 615 miles of this fencing have been planted on 2,500 farms in the southern 40 counties of Michigan, a total of about two million stem plantings.

Living fences are not a new idea. The farmers of Normandy, France, for example, fenced off their land with stout hedges centuries ago and these same fences are still living. They are thickly matted, prevent soil erosion and defy passage of cattle.

The department gives the rose stems to farmers on condition they be planted correctly and maintained by the farmer. Federal Pittman-Robertson funds pay three-fourths of this work, the state underwrites the remainder.

Inquiries from rural landowners regarding the habitat program should be directed to the game division, conservation department, Lansing, Michigan.

**Three Holstein Bulls
Get Production Awards**

Three more Holstein bulls at the Michigan Artificial Breeders cooperative at East Lansing recently were named Silver Medal Producers according to A. C. Baltzer, Michigan State College extension dairyman.

The honor, given by the Holstein-Friesian Association of America, is based on superior milk production of the bulls' daughters as compared to their dams. The medal marks them as outstanding sires of the breed.

The bulls are Lebedev Poles Poles, whose 22 qualifying daughters produced 432 pounds of butter fat topped their dams' production by 64 pounds; Creston Reg Apple Ambassadors, whose 20 qualifying daughters produced an average of 462 pounds of butterfat to top the production of their mothers by 28 pounds; and Silverleaf Bud Master, with an average of 587 pounds of fat, which is 76 pounds better than the production of their dams.

A new broom sweeps clean but an old one is best for spreading lye solution to kill bacteria in crevices in the hen house.

Cyanide Poisoning Kills 5,000 Grand River Fish

Cyanide poisoning was the cause of the recent death of more than 5,000 fish in the Grand River near Lansing, it has been confirmed by the state water resources commission, the conservation department reports.

The largest fish kill on the Grand River in that area in several years included many minnows but also northern pike, bass, rock bass, bluegills, carp and suckers.

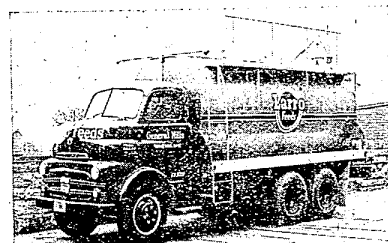
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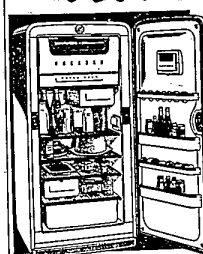
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