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 By **ROBERT S. VAN ATTA, C. S.**
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FARM NEWS

TWIN TO BULL CALF MAY BE SUCCESSFUL BREEDING STOCK

Don't rule a heifer calf "no good" just because she had a bull calf twin, farmers are advised by James G. Hays, dairy extension specialist at Michigan State College. There is at least one chance in twelve that she will grow up to be a normal breeding cow, he advises.
 How can you tell?
 That question can be answered easily by a blood test, replies Hays. A veterinarian can draw samples and have them typed, Hays explains, by sending them to the nearest cooperating laboratory for Michigan. It's Ohio State University. In most cases, a veterinarian can decide if the blood typing is worthwhile by inspection at or shortly after birth. If the heifer and bull calves test alike, the heifer will be a non-breeder, says Hays. This indicates they had a joint blood circulation before birth. Male hormones sterilize those of the female, he notes.

Heavy Farm Production Advised In Predicting Good Year Ahead

Farmers will have a good year if they watch their costs and strive for "full production" in 1953, is the optimistic annual outlook of Michigan State College agricultural economists.
 Demand for farm products — with exception of exports — will continue strong during 1953 with consumer dollars in good supply, report the economists. This may be followed by a slight business and farm recession, probably in 1954. Farm prices in 1953 will depend on the crop volume. A nationwide bumper crop will drop farm prices where government short crop would add to inflation. Supports are not effective. A short crop would add to inflation. Costs of farm operations will continue to rise and should be watched closely, caution the economists. Increased wages of industrial workers and costs of services will add to the rising farm costs. Marketing charges will continue to take a larger share of the consumer's food dollar, leaving less for the farmer. The farm share, which has been about 50 cents, dropped to 48 cents the past year.
 Farm prices generally will remain around the 100 per cent of parity level, according to the MSC outlook. Net farm incomes will be about the same as in 1952. It will be less because of higher prices of consumer goods.
 Dollar shortages in foreign countries may hurt exports, especially foreign agricultural sales. Justified out defense work will put more money in the consumer's pocket and boost prices. Any downturn in 1953 will be offset by an earlier price rise.
 No new tax increases are anticipated by the economists but stretched out defense work will put more money in the consumer's pocket and boost prices. Any downturn in 1953 will be offset by an earlier price rise.

Early Chicks To Profit More For Next Year

Laying flocks should provide more profit in the 12 months beginning about December 1 than in the previous 12 months. Egg prices will be about 8 cents a dozen higher and feed only slightly higher, claims Henry E. Larzere, Michigan State College poultry marketing specialist.
 This will stimulate pullet raising and bring more eggs to market next December. Poultrymen who start chicks early and have pullets laying for market in late summer will reap profits.
FARM MISHAPS
 Farm Bureau reports to David G. Sternick, safety specialist at MSC, show 603 Michigan farm folks were in accidents and 35 died between January 1 and August 31, 1952. Bruises were most common, with 192. Cuts follow with 175 and 157 broken bones were reported. Hurrying and unsafe methods were the chief causes.

FARM PROFITS NOT DICTATED BY SHARE OF CONSUMER PRICE

The farmer's share of consumer food dollars does not fix profit and loss in farming, stresses Dale E. Butz, Michigan State College extension specialist in agricultural economics.
 The 1952 farm portion is about 48 cents, reports Butz, compared to a normal 50 cents. The range is from 42 cents in 1932 to 54 cents in 1945, observes the farm economist.
 A farmer could profit more from a smaller share one year than from a bigger share another, because of price trends, according to a study by Butz. Labor and other marketing costs may force prices up, and other retail trends take them higher, while the farmer's share drops off. Even though his share is off, the farmer may still reap a good profit, according to Butz. A higher share of the consumer's dollar does not mean more farm profit, however, if production costs on the farm go up faster than does the farmer's price for his products.
 Profit in farming still depends on the relation of prices farmers get to their production costs, emphasizes the specialist in farm economics. Shares of a dollar because of price trends, also, he notes, and each commodity must be examined on its own merit.
 When retail prices go up, costs of marketing may stay fairly steady, while the farm share rises, Butz points out. When retail prices fall, market costs may stay fairly steady again — and the farm production share drops, because of price trends, also, he notes, and each commodity must be examined on its own merit.

FALL-FRESHENING COWS MAY GIVE MORE RETURNS

Fall-freshening cows give more returns for feed costs than those freshening in the spring, reports L. A. Johnson, dairy extension specialist at Michigan State College. Study of 2,347 records of cows in Dairy Herd Improvement Association tests in 1951 gave Johnson his answers. Cows freshening in September through November averaged 24 pounds of butterfat and \$20 more income over feed costs per cow than those freshening in March through May. Feed cost to produce milk was slightly lower with the spring freshening cows, admits Johnson. But a combination of higher production and higher fall prices gave the financial advantage to the fall group.
 Dairymen breed cows to freshen year-around seeking an even flow of milk, Johnson notes. Lush spring pastures increase spring production and short pastures in the fall cut production, he continues. He thinks it would be to the dairyman's advantage to breed more cows to calve in the fall. This would even the milk supply up even more and give a financial gain, he advises.

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MSU Dairy Researcher Advises Urea Feeding

Questions about urea in livestock feeds came thick and fast at a recent feed dealers and manufacturers conference at Michigan State College.
 Dr. C. F. Huffman, dairy researcher at MSC, pointed out that too heavy urea feeding was wasted on dairy cattle. Urea got better results in low-protein rations and that chemists are working on urea that will break down more slowly in digestion and be better for milk cows.
 Dr. J. A. Hofer, animal husbandman at MSC, said beef cattle could get as much value from a pound of urea as from six or seven pounds of soy bean oil, the urea in best feed with corn or other carbohydrates, including molasses.
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