

Michigan State College short courses are popular with young farmers. Lack of time is still the chief cause of legume seedling failures, report MISC soil scientists.

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Corncob Filler Used for Light-Weight "Insulated" Concrete

Ground corncobs, used as a filler, may produce a lower cost, lighter weight, better insulated concrete for Michigan farmers. Tests by the Agricultural Experiment Station of Michigan State College, using various combinations of corncob, cement, sand, gravel, lime and limestone, have produced concrete slabs and blocks of sufficient strengths to meet many farm construction needs. Ordinary nails may be driven into the concrete without difficulty. Corncobs are cut into pellets ranging from 1/8 to 1" thick, which are then thoroughly soaked in water before mixing. Wall and floor slabs of corncob concrete were exposed to weather for 20 months, through 2 winters, and showed no apparent defects. Call or write your County Agent who will have further information as tests are completed.



In their constant search for ways to do down costs and improve service, telephone developed a tiny electronic tube that amplifies hundreds of long distance conversations at the same time. It's six times more sensitive than earlier tubes. Compact and rugged, this mighty midget is an important contribution to efficiency these days when telephone equipment must handle more calls from more telephones. Incidentally, 7 of every 10 establishments in Michigan Bell rural territory have a telephone now, compared with 3 out of 10 in 1945.

MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

DETROIT AREA FARMERS OFFERED FACTORY JOBS

Farmers living near Detroit can find interesting winter jobs at good pay in numerous industries, Theodore Luke, manager of the Northwest Office of the Michigan Employment Security Commission, said this week.

"We have hundreds of good job openings waiting for men who can do a day's work," Luke said. He also pointed out that the jobs are for skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled workers. A man with an industrial experience at all can be placed at his highest skill. "This is more than just an appeal for industrial workers," Mr. Luke said, "and the men we place will be contributing to the defense effort. Much of the work of these industries goes directly into the slushes of war."

Luke also pointed out that many workers will be needed between now and Christmas in retail establishments. There are also openings for office workers, such as clerks, typists and stenographers at the present time.

Luke urged any unemployed worker to register with the MESC. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is located at 13501 Chalmers in Detroit.

BROILER PRICES

Broilers and fryers will sell for about the same in 1953 as in 1952, from 23 cents to 35 cents per pound live-weight at wholesale in Detroit, forecasts Henry E. Larzelere, Michigan State College poultry marketing specialist.

BEE GEE

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Educated Hen Now Exhibiting Mental Prowess In Farmington

A barnyard hen is a dumb duck to most people, but Henny Penny who is now in Farmington, will demonstrate that chickens really have brains.

Henny Penny is an "educated" chicken. She has been trained by psychology to do things no ordinary hen would be expected to do. But what makes Henny Penny unusual is the fact she will go into a disc manipulation routine for anyone.

Henny Penny, who has appeared on the TV program "You Asked For It", is now at the Farmington Mills and will remain there for anyone.

Potato "King" Nurses Soil To Top Yield

How would you like to raise an average of 563 bushels of potatoes an acre over a six-year period? It can be done — in fact, it has been done by a Michigan farmer, Frank Falties, Cornell, in Delta County.

To take it from Falties, whose 1952 yield averaged 1,033 bushels an acre for a new Michigan record, it takes lots of hard work and explicit following of growing practices recommended by Michigan State College.

Unless some other grower comes along with a better record, this will be the third year out of the best six — in fact, it has been done by a Michigan farmer, Frank Falties, Cornell, in Delta County.

Here's how he managed his land to grow the 1952 crop.

First, he follows a rotation plan that puts the field into production of potatoes only once every five years. The land is in a legume sod for three years. In 1952, this field was in alfalfa-brome grass and Falties applied 400 pounds of 2-12-6 fertilizer to the acre. In 1951 the field was pastured by the dairy herd until August. It was cultivated 12 times and 500 pounds of 0-12-12 fertilizer was applied.

This spring he cultivated the field three times, plowed it once, went over it with a disc and planted the potato crop on May 12. Rows were spaced 30 inches apart and seed planted every seven inches. More fertilizer — 1,200 pounds of 3-9-18 — was used in the rows at time of planting with 33 bushels of seed to the acre.

Falties used a twine tractor and a row cultivator twice during the summer. He sprayed the field 16 times to control blight and four sprays with DDT for insect control.

More Fertilizer Available In '53, Estimates Show

Fertilizer is one of the best buys for most farms, say Michigan State College extension specialists in farm management. Current estimates are for 12 per cent more nitrogen, ten per cent more phosphates and 19 per cent more potash in 1953 than in 1952. Farmers are now using more fertilizer to offset the increases and supplies will continue tight, particularly for nitrogen. Fertilizer prices will rise some but probably less than five percent. The specialists advise ordering fertilizer early.

Rotation Plan Brings Top Crop Production

Alfred Jenkins of Route Two, Milford, has shown that a five-year soil building rotation of corn and oats with alfalfa three years is paying off in greater yields. Jenkins began a sound plan of crop rotation a few years ago with the assistance of Farmers Home Administration and Soil Conservation Service and has produced a corn yield of 73-8 bushels of shelled corn per acre. This yield was checked and verified by O. W. Moore, Farmers Home Administration Supervisor, and Robert Coons, Soil Conservation Service technician. The Oklahoma County ten year average for corn is approximately 35 bushels per acre.

Farmers Home Administration aids farmer cooperators with farm management and financial assistance and Soil Conservation Service provides technical assistance with soil management, drainage and other problems of land use.

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Drains Fill Up, Break Down, Need Regular Checking

Both open ditch and tile drains need periodic attention to be of value to farmers, urges Ernest H. Kidder, Michigan State College agricultural engineer. Open ditches into which the empties need special attention. Ditch junctions also bear close watching.

Unstable soil, steep bank sides or heavy loads of soil can be broken down by slow-moving drain vehicles or cause ditches to fill in. If a ditch is properly constructed, it will have at least a foot drop from the bottom of the outlet tile to the bottom of the ditch. When accumulated soil reaches the bottom side of the outlet tile, it's high time to clean ditches. Ditches cannot function properly or handle drainage in wet years if clogged with brush and weeds, reminds the agricultural engineer. Farmers with some spare fall and winter time may find it pays to chop out brush and weeds or use chemical sprays. Ditches can be built with sloping sides that can be moved.

Never thing should be checked several months after installation; they should be checked the following spring also. If holes appear or heavy loads of tile may be broken over the line, a tile may be broken and need replacing quickly to prevent soil entering the line. Upper ends of tile lines should be sealed with board or concrete. Kidder does not recommend leading drainage directly into an open (le end as a rule — if it is done, there should be a sediment trap at the entry, and the trap should be cleaned at least once a year, often if needed. The tile should be kept away from damaging tree roots. Tile systems need a good outlet, proper design, durable tile and proper installation and proper soil management.

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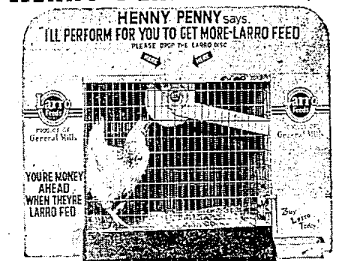
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