

Pruning Time Opens For Pine Varieties

Spring is the time to prune Scotch and red pine, advises Lester E. Bell, Michigan State College extension forester.

Ill-shaped trees can be pruned and sheared and made into ones that will sell for Christmas trees, he explains. Some trees, such as spruce and Scotch pine, often grow too rapidly, making them "leggy" and open.

"This condition can be remedied by the judicious use of the pruning shears at the proper time," Bell suggests.

Scotch and red pine should be pruned in the spring when the new growth is soft and succulent. Firs and spruces should be pruned in the dormant season from November to March.

While pruning this spring, be on the lookout for sawfly eggs, adds Walter F. Morofsky, MSC entomologist.

Heifer Sales To Back Summer Trip To England

Michigan's national champion 4-H Club dairy cattle judging team will have aid in its July trip to the world contest in England from sales of heifer calves by purebred cattle associations. The Holstein association appropriated \$400 and the Ayrshire men \$100.

Sales will be as follows: Jersey, April 25, at Wolverine Sales Pavilion, Williamston; Brown Swiss, April 25, and Guernsey, May 2, at the MSC Pavilion.

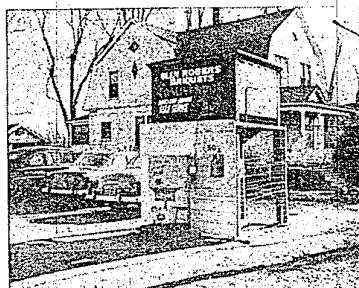
The team is composed of David VanDenHeuvel, Hart, an MSC student who topped the national show in all breeds, and Robert Meyer, Ypsilanti; Marilyn Tyge, Traverse City, and Donald Proctor, Chelsea.

Mortality in chicks was cut from 10 or 15 per cent to 1.8 per cent in 1952, reports J. M. Moore, MSC poultry specialist. Good management and disease control were the answers.

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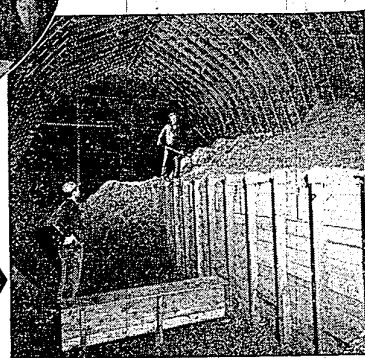
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Fred Ott and his sons use a slatted A-frame system for drying corn on their Livingston County farm.

Robert and Harold Walton approve lateral duct hay drying system on Ferguson-Lea Farm in Lapeer County.



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SWINE DISEASE MAKES OUTBREAK IN MACOMB COUNTY

Dr. Lee Davidson, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Michigan Department of Agriculture, reports that Michigan was free of both state and federal quarantines for vesicular exanthema (swine disease) for twenty-five days. However, on March 21 a state quarantine was placed on Macomb County and was followed by a U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry quarantine, effective April 1.

Vesicular exanthema has been found on three garbage premises in Macomb County involving from 950 to 1000 head of hogs. These are marketable type hogs. At the present time, veterinary inspectors from the two bureaus are making a survey of the swine on garbage feeding premises of Macomb County.

Vesicular exanthema first broke out in Michigan in Kalamazoo County on October 5, 1952, and since then there have been cases under quarantine in the counties of Hillsdale, Jackson, Calhoun, Washtenaw, St. Clair, Livingston, Genesee, Oakland and Wayne. All of the outbreaks have been traced to hogs being fed garbage.

Get seed oats now while the kind you want is available, urges Stuart C. Hildebrand, MSC farm crops specialist.

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Plans Completed For Grass Days; Seven Exhibits To Be Held In June

Seven Grass Day programs are planned in Michigan's Lower Peninsula during June to aid farmers in obtaining better forage crops, according to Richard W. Bell, chairman of the Michigan State College Grass Day committee.

The newest information on seedling, high-yielding, high-quality forage crops will be given. County Grass Day committees and neighboring county agricultural agents will aid the host agricultural agents in planning details and in publicity.

Programs will be open about 9:30 a.m. with conducted tours to the demonstration areas on selected farms where outstanding pasture work is in progress. There will be machinery and other exhibits on these farms, where arrangements are being fall made to serve luncheon to the hundreds of farm visitors.

The afternoon programs will include:

Legume Seeding Successful At MSC

One-fourth of Michigan's cropland goes into legumes — alfalfa and red clover — each year and one in ten of these acres fails, notes Milo B. Tesar, Michigan State College farm crops specialist.

Legume seedings fail more commonly when made in winter wheat than in oats.

If broadcast legume seedlings on winter wheat are not made by early April, Dr. Tesar recommends waiting until the land will support a tractor and drill. Then discs should be set to make a half-inch deep furrows and the seed should fall in the furrows behind the discs. Rain will cover the seed.

Use of 50 pounds of superphosphate fertilizer per acre when drilling the seed should give the seedlings a better start on soil of low fertility.

In 23 years of drilling alfalfa into winter wheat between April 10 and May 4 at the farm crops plots at Michigan State College, there was only one seeding failure — in an exceptionally dry year.

Most seedlings are made in the spring with oats as a companion crop, points out Dr. Tesar. When both are seeded with a drill in one operation the land will support a tractor and drill. The legume seed should fall on top of the ground behind the discs, or the legume seed may be broadcast after the oats are drilled if desired. Oats should be held to six weeks per acre to favor the legumes.

The soil "pH" should be about "7" for alfalfa and near "6.5" for clovers. Lime should be worked into acid soil before seeding. Two to four hundred pounds of high analysis fertilizer should be used on a good weed-free seedbed.

Slate Dairy Conference At M.S.C. On April 20, 21

Michigan State College will have its annual Dairy Fieldmen's Conference on April 20 and 21 at Kelleys Center. Topics will include control of mastitis and other diseases, storing and feeding of roughages and the dairy market situation.

Speakers will represent milk producers, the MSC dairy and other departments, milk processors and dairy equipment suppliers.

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LIFE, PROPERTY MAY BE SAVED BY CLEAN-UP

April is clean-up time in rural Michigan and the safety specialists are urging farmers to join in campaigns to make their farmsteads better places to live and work.

David G. Steinlecke, Michigan State College safety specialist and Michigan Rural Safety Council secretary, points out that cleaning up farm buildings and yards is a good way to cut fire losses in any community.

"Think of some of the recent fires in your community," asks Steinlecke. "How many of them resulted from poor housekeeping?"

Ninety per cent of the fires that kill farm people or cripple them — as well as destroy homes, barns, livestock and equipment — may represent a lifetime of savings — can be prevented, says the safety specialist.

"If we all team up and clean out the rubbish and combustible material and eliminate other fire hazards, we can prevent many of these costly fires. The property, as well as the life, you save may be your own," he stresses.

Further information on Grass Days is available from the County Agent in Pontiac.

Michigan 4-H Foundation Receives \$50,000 Gift

The Michigan 4-H Foundation has received another \$50,000 contribution to bring its cash total to \$75,000. It also has pledges for an additional \$225,000.

The \$50,000 donation came from the Youth Activities Fund in Detroit. A. G. Kettinen, state 4-H Club leader at Michigan State College and secretary of the Foundation, said the money was officially earmarked for the construction of a proposed 4-H Club Center in northern Michigan.

This center, one of the Foundation's goals, will be designed for summer camping experiences for both rural and urban youth in 4-H Club and other activities.

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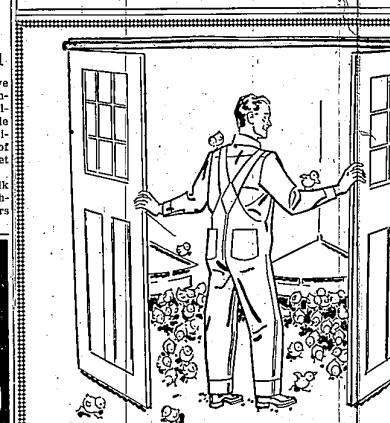
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