

Remember that Ranger alfalfa is wilt-resistant and will pay off for more than two years, reminds Dr. Stephen T. Dexter of the Michigan State College farm crops department.

With a 37 million bushel national increase in potatoes shaping up this year, MSC potato growing and marketing specialists caution growers to take it easy. High quality potatoes, high yields per acre and low costs will be needed.

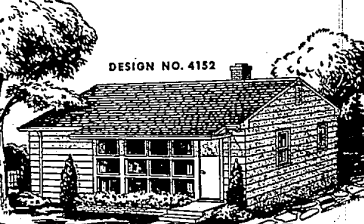
FARM NEWS

State Accepts Five National 4-H Awards

4-H Club members in this state will be eligible to participate in five 1953 national awards programs offering medals of honor, all-expense trips to the Chicago 4-H Congress next November, and \$300 college scholarships, the state Club office has announced. The programs and donors are: Farm and Home Electric, Westinghouse Educational Foundation; Field Crops, International Harvester; Girls' Record, Montgomery Ward; Poultry, Dearborn Motor; and Tractor Maintenance, Standard Oil Foundation, Inc. (Chicago).

With steadily increasing participation in these programs during the last five years, it is estimated that in 1953, 100,000 members will enroll in Farm and Home Electric, 328,000 in Field Crops, 1 million in Girls' Record, 220,000 in Poultry, and 68,000 in Tractor Maintenance.

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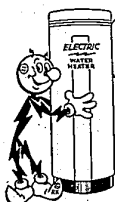
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Correct Timing Helps Kill Weeds

The secret to having good pastures is keeping weeds down, says a Michigan State College plant physiologist.

Ruford H. Grigsby, MSC weed control specialist, suggests that very weedy pastures can be profitably plowed and reseeded. But for pastures which cannot be plowed, or where grass is worth saving, Grigsby has some suggestions.

Some weeds can be checked by moving at the right time of the year. Wild Carrot, dock and bull thistle should be mowed when in the bud or the first flower stage to prevent spreading of seed. Two or more seasons of mowing will be needed to control carrot, bull thistle and chicory, Grigsby says. Mowing will probably not check spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, hairy alyssum and orange hawkweed.

Weeds can also be controlled by applications of 2,4-D. The spray, applied when plants are young and growing, will control most annual and some biennial weeds. Grigsby warns that spraying will cause some damage to legumes, but he adds that established white clover and alfalfa are seldom destroyed by properly timed spraying — when there is less than two inches of new growth.

Early spring, while legumes are still dormant, or late fall, after the first killing frost, are the best times to apply 2,4-D for the control of pasture weeds. He says "Very weedy pasture may be harmed less by spray than by weed competition."

Brush in pastures can be killed by: Foliage sprays, applied during the growing season when the brush is in full leaf; cut-stump treatment, spraying the stump after cutting it near the ground; and the basal-bark method, treating the lower ten inches of the trunk with oil spray.

Beef can be stored six months to a year at zero temperatures; however, ground meat should not be kept in a home freezer or commercial locker longer than 45 days.

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TRADE TRICKS—Roughing edges of a horse's teeth is a trick used by unscrupulous traders to disguise an equine's age and make a customer believe the animal he is buying is young and strong. Demonstrating with a file, above, is Fred Cochran of Solon, Iowa, who has been a "reputable trader for three decades. "A horse's teeth wear smooth with age," explains Cochran. "Only young animals have rough teeth."

Seed treatment and crop rotation are the two cheapest ways to insure a good oat crop by keeping it free of disease. That's a pointer from Edward A. Andrews, extension plant pathologist at Michigan State College.

Planting oats after oats or in close rotation year after year with other small grains, he says, will tend to build up seedling blight and root rot fungi in the soil. These conditions make a heyday for septoria leaf blotch and black stem fungus, too. Growing crops or forages between the oat crops and other small grains, says Andrews, will hold losses from these common diseases to a minimum.

The MSC plant pathologist says that Ceresan M and Agrox are two fungicides that can be applied to the seed either as a dust or liquid to control diseases. Panogen and Mycon, equally effective in controlling smut and other diseases of oats, are available only as liquids.

In tests by the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station in 1952, these chemicals gave fairly good control also; Valsidol 81, Setrete, Tag 331 and NEMA. They are being tested further. The fungicide suggestions by Andrews are based on cooperative experimental results at eight stations in the United States, including Michigan State College, and one in Alaska. Not all materials on sale in Michigan are effective, he cautions, and it is a good plan to check with your county agent.

State Sells First Lease For Copper Mining Rights

The first copper lease ever written to cover mining on state land was drawn up recently for James W. Robb of Keewauqua, Minnesota. Robb is authorized to mine for copper on about 3,000 acres of land which the state owns mineral rights. All the land is in Houghton and Ontonagon Counties.

The conservation commission recently gave final approval to the copper lease sale.

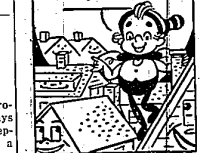
SWINE LITTERS WILL BE SHOWN IN STATE JULY 22

The Swine Types Conference, held annually to promote interest in hog types and to boost pork production, has been set for the fairgrounds at Charlotte on July 22. Sponsored by Michigan State College and the Michigan State Breeders' association, the event features type demonstrations, a judging contest and exhibits of top litters.

Litters on display will be the top ones in MSC's sow testing program. Many farmers participating in the project weigh their pigs on bathroom scales. Litter size, weight and ability to gain are hereditary.

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