Mix Water And Grain For Saving Time In Milking Parlor, Say Experts

If your cows take too much time to eat while they're being milked, you can do something about the situation, say dairymen at Michigan State College. The high producers that eat more grain are usually the big offenders in taking their time.

MSC dairymen report that you may be able to solve the problem by adding water to the grain mixture. That is what is being done experimentally with a Brown Swiss herd at the college. It works well. The cows have a lusty appetite for the grain — drinking it instead of lapping it up with the tongue.

Cows ate, (or drank) the wet mixture in less than half the time they consumed the dry feed. And they let their milk down faster. As a result the Brown Swiss parlor in much less time than for cows went through the milking merry.

C. F. Huffman, N. P. Ralston and H. L. Dalton, who conducted the tests and timed the eating and drinking, report the cows that ate the wet mixture seemed more relaxed than others. As a consequence the animals let down their milk a fourth faster than cows eating dry grain. The faster the cows ate their grain, the faster they milked out.

The dairymen tried various rates of water per pound of concentrate and found that the cows consumed the grain most rapidly when 1.5 pounds of water was added to the concentrate.

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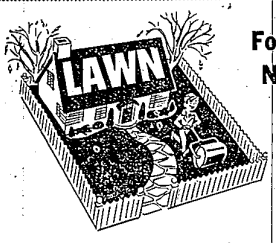

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FARM NEWS

Total '53 Apple Crop To Be Used

The latest estimates on the size of the apple crop in Michigan this year indicate that all of it will be harvested and used, according to G. N. Motts, extension marketing specialist at Michigan State College.

The Michigan Cooperative Crop Reporting Service August forecast indicates 8,094,000 bushels — nearly 5 per cent below the July estimate. Marketing statistics since 1941, says Motts, show that considerable quantities of Michigan apples have been left unharvested when the state crop exceeded 8 million bushels by any substantial amount.

The reduction in the August estimate, explains Motts, is an approximate measure of the amount of apples that would have been left unharvested if the eight and one-half million bushels had been produced.

The 1953 apple crop, adds Motts, will be used about like this: five and one-fourth to five and one-half million bushels for fresh market sales, two and one-fourth to two and one-half million bushels to processors and the balance used on farms.

The 1953 Michigan grape crop is now forecast at 43,000 tons, or 3,000 tons more than in the July report. Such a crop, Motts notes, would equal the 1950 grape crop in the state and would be 31 per cent above the ten-year average.

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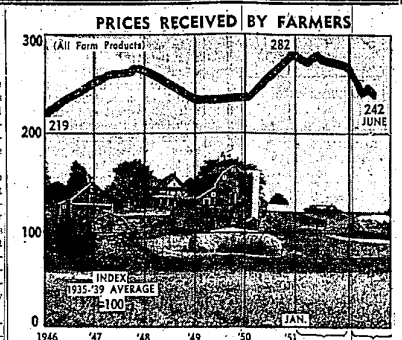

Newschart shows the fluctuation in prices farmers received for their products from 1946 to June, 1953. Figures are based upon the 1935-39 average index of 100. The index has dropped from a 282 in 1951 to a June, 1953, figure of 242.

Economist Sees Optimistic Outlook For Michigan Dairymen This Year

The outlook for dairying in Michigan is an optimistic one for the coming year, says a Michigan State College agricultural economist.

Extension Specialist Dale E. Butz predicts that dairying is likely to be favorable relative to most other enterprises.

"Support prices probably will be lowered next winter," he points out, "but this will not make too much difference in price, since increased demand due to the population increase will nearly absorb the milk equivalent of products purchased by the government this year."

Admitting that the longer-time outlook for dairying is "colored" by the introduction of filled milk products, Butz believes the change there will not be as drastic as some have predicted.

He suggests that the increased fluid sales and the selling of nonfat dry milk will more than offset losses in outlets for fat. There will be a gradual shift in values placed on fat and non-fat solids with the latter taking the greater share of the milk price. This, Butz notes, will come with education and promotion as consumers realize the value of milk.

Butz looks for more emphasis to be placed on evening out the seasonal milk flow through pricing schemes and other means. Federal and state orders will be extended to nearly all fluid milk markets. Quality gradually will be raised so that nearly all milk is of bottling quality. And, Butz adds, the shift from farm-separated cream to the delivery of whole milk will continue.

"For the producer with an adequate size business, good management, good cows and proper equipment," concludes Butz, "the future is always bright. The producer with only three or four cows, inadequate equipment and high costs is in for a rough time."

FEEDER LAMBS GAIN BETTER WITH HORMONES

Feeder lambs in Michigan State College tests increased their daily gain by 27 to 42 per cent with the use of implanted hormones.

Harold A. Henneman of the college's animal husbandry department in charge of the research, says the use of both progesterone and estrogen indicates that much boost in gain on 15 to 25 per cent less feed per pound of increased weight.

Good carcass quality was maintained with the use of these hormones, but the quality was lowered when another hormone, stilbestérol, was used. The latter drug also caused urinary calculi trouble despite the fact that it did boost the efficiency and rate of gain.

Henneman reports that experimental work is continuing with progesterone and estrogen to be sure the combination of treatments do not cause urinary calculi trouble. The use of hormones has not been approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration as yet. Their use is confined strictly to experimental work.

An oil and gas lease sale will be held in the Senate chambers of the state Capitol building on September 10 - 11, the conservation department reports.

The first day's sale will start at 10:00 a.m. About 90,000 acres, a "larger than average" total is being offered for lease at the sale.

HOLD TIMBER SALE

A sale of timber standing in Baraga state forest will be held September 7 at 10:00 a.m. at the court house in L'Anse, the conservation department reports.

Four blocks of timber, totaling 335,000 board feet of lumber and 675 cords of pulpwood, will be offered at the single sale.

FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 31 - September 3 — National Home Demonstration Council Conference at Boston, Massachusetts.

September 2 — Michigan Elevator Exchange, thirty-third stockholders meeting, Lansing.

September 7 - 9 — American Society for Horticultural Science; American Phytopathological Society; American Institute of Biological Sciences, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

SET SNIPE SEASON

Jack snipe will be legal game in Michigan October 1 to 15, the conservation department announces.

The conservation commission was polled recently and announcement made of agreement to the October season.

It will be Michigan's first open season on snipe since 1940.

Also, a supplemental note from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service says the same bag and possession limits on wood ducks — one per hunter — will be in force again this year.

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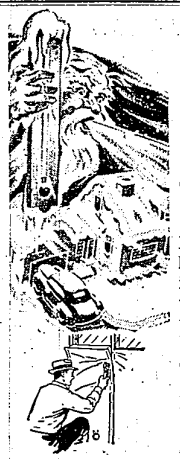

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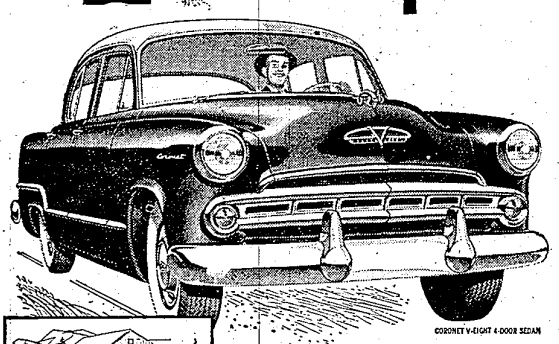

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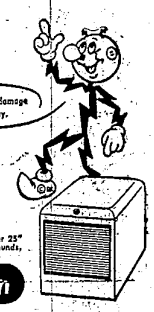

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