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FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

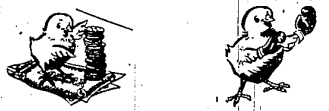
- March 8 - 9, Second Annual Beef Herdmen's School, Livestock Pavilion, MSC.
March 9, Winter Grass Institute, Washtenaw County, Pittsford Grange Hall.
March 10, Winter Grass Institute, Oakland County, Waterford Community Building, Williams Lake Road.
March 11, Winter Grass Institute, Sanilac County, Peck High School Gym.
March 16 - 17, Pest Control Operators Conference, Kellogg Center, MSC.
March 18, Michigan Artificial Breeders Cooperative annual, at Michigan State College.
March 18 - 19, Septic Tank Conference, Kellogg Center, MSC.
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FARM NEWS

Best Hybrids Good Insurance

Corn growers this year can get some cheap "crop insurance" by selecting two or three hybrids that differ slightly in the time they take to ripen. That's a suggestion from E. C. Rossman, farm crops researcher at Michigan State College. He points out that adverse weather conditions such as late planting, late planting and for three or four weeks afterwards, may affect one hybrid more than another, depending on how far the crop is along. A farmer advises selecting hybrids from a copy of Extension Folder P-67, available at the county extension office or from the Bulletin Office, Michigan State College. This year's corn hybrid tests which were conducted over the state as well as a summary of the past performance of each hybrid.

The crops researcher suggests selecting early maturing hybrids that yielded as much or more than the late varieties. The early corn usually matures before frost, and mature corn makes better livestock feed. Dr. Rossman points out that mature corn doesn't spoil in storage, a higher price is paid for dry, mature corn which can be harvested in the fall before bad weather sets in. That means a farmer can frequently seed wheat after harvesting an early hybrid corn.

New hybrids are continually being developed, he notes, and they should be tried by farmers when the variety has been adequately tested to show it's better. By planting the best hybrid, a yield increase of two bushels per acre will more than pay for the cost of the seed. If a grower plants corn of a different hybrid, it's still important to have a hybrid that yields a high amount of grain, Rossman stresses.

Expect More Spring Seeding For Legumes

Last year's drought and this year's diversion of land from wheat, cotton and corn are expected by U. S. Department of Agriculture observers to cause more spring seeding for pasture and hay crops.

The U. S. D. A. crop reporting board economists estimate grass and legume seed supplies will run nine per cent ahead last year but four per cent ahead of the average. Supplies of alfalfa, red clover, alsike, ladino, and smooth bromegrass are expected to be abundant. Sudangrass supplies are below average but 50 per cent ahead of 1953.

Seed Testing Laboratory In Lansing Guarantees Purity And Germination

Michigan in March is not a time for planting corn, beans or oats, but in Lansing these crops and many others have germinated. The place is the seed testing laboratory of the Michigan Department of Agriculture in the Lewis Cass building. Here, millions of seeds are examined for germination and purity. The laboratory is getting what he pays for. The tag on every seed package indicates tests were conducted in this laboratory under direction of Charles A. Sturges, director.

For clerical purposes, seed samples are divided into two groups; those sent in by farmers or seedmen and those picked up on seed planters and from seedmen by the three seed inspectors who cover the state for the Department of Agriculture. On receipt in the laboratory, the seed samples are recorded by the seed manager, followed through on the clerical work on each sample from the time it is received until the final report is in the mail. With the use of "mixers," any of the five analysts in the laboratory reduce the sample to the proper amount prescribed for that particular kind of seed. For example, oats and wheat take 50 grams, lawn seed two grams, etc. The mixers are used by means of a revolving cone through the seed in equal amounts into 32 different channels. In this way the sample is well mixed and reduced to proper size for testing. With magnifiers that look something like what your jeweler uses in examining a precious gem, the sample is carefully gone over by an analyst, who uses tweezers to separate foreign seeds. Analysts can at a glance identify any of 125 common noxious weed seeds.

But every now and then a new and different weed shows up. In a reference file nearby, there are samples of 4,000 noxious weed seeds from all parts of the world. There are in tiny phials. Some of them came from Asia, some South America, some Europe.

FINISH BEEF TO MAKE TOP MARKET PRICE

Michigan cattle feeders will find it an advantage to put a good finish on their feeder cattle this season because of the substantial price differential between finished and unfinished cattle in the same grade.

That is pointed out by George A. Branaman, a Michigan State College animal husbandman. He urges the feeding of plenty of protein supplement because cattle not getting enough are lacking proper finish.

Although protein supplement is slightly higher priced than last year, he stresses, the benefit in the form of finished cattle is more than worth the expense. Branaman also advises shopping around for the best buy in protein supplement of similar quality. For instance, he points out, cottonseed meal is an attractive price in comparison with some others.

State Cover Crop Feeds Apples Magnesium

It takes longer than one year to correct magnesium deficiency in apple orchards, warns C. A. Eganer, Michigan State College horticulturist. So far, no soil treatments have corrected this deficiency in mature apple trees. The trend toward low magnesium levels was noticed by magnesium observers to cause more spring seeding for pasture and hay crops. The latest method of treatment is the application of magnesium to the soil in connection with the cover crop.

Survey Shows Lack Of Potassium In Grapes

Potassium seems to be the element most needed for better grape yields in Michigan. Many growers counteract this lack with applications of manure and commercial fertilizer, reports B. Paul Larsen, Michigan State College horticulturist. Larsen notes the strong interaction between potassium, calcium, and magnesium. When potassium is low, he points out, magnesium is usually high. This relationship may have some bearing on the deficiency of potassium.

Alfalfa Clover Build Nitrogen

A good crop of alfalfa, sweet clover or red clover can put 500 pounds per acre of ammonium sulfate on the ground, reminds M. B. Tesar, Michigan State College farm crops researcher. These three legumes are the best for supplying nitrogen, 100 pounds per acre, worth from \$15 to \$25. Legumes have to be inoculated and fertilized, Tesar warns, but they don't have to be in the soil for years. One year is enough to supply nitro and make the land easier to till.

OATS, BARLEY BEST LEGUME NURSE CROPS

The companion of nurse crop may determine the quality of stand farmers get from alfalfa seedlings. A study of the effect of various companion crops on the establishment of alfalfa in a field experiment has recently been completed by Robert Briggs and G. M. Harrison of the Michigan State College farm crops department. In the experiment, using various nurse crops, several varieties of oats and barley were used in addition to many other grasses and grain crops. The best yield of alfalfa was obtained when Clinton oats were used as the nurse crop and cut at three inches for grain. Both oats and barley were about equally satisfactory when cut at three inches and the straw removed.

When sudan grass, millet and soybeans were cut for hay the resulting alfalfa crop was fairly good. It was fair when buckwheat was used and cut at full bloom and end bloom. The resulting alfalfa yield and stand was very satisfactory when sudan grass, millet, soy beans and buckwheat were used as a nurse crop and cut for grain.

Vernal alfalfa developed in Wisconsin shows great promise, admit MSC farm cropmen, but until Vernal seed is available, Ranger is the best bet where you have wild and want alfalfa fields to stand more than a couple years.



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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh
Steve Tips the Balance
Was just leaving home this morning when the Missus reminded me to stop at Steve and Al's Meat Market for a pound of hamburger. "Be sure to get it from Steve," she said. "Why?" I wondered. So when I got to the market I asked Steve if he knew. "I'll tell you, Joe," he said. "Al and I sell the same meat, and a pound is a pound. Maybe it's just that we go at it differently. "Al loads the scales and takes away 'til he has a pound. But I put too little on and start adding."

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1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 can tuna (white meat)
1 can (8 oz.) mushroom and juice
Four mushroom soup into large bowl, add milk and ingredients, reserving 1 cup of creamed potato chips for top of casserole. Mix and fill greased casserole to top of casserole and sprinkle remaining potato chips on top. Bake casserole with paprika and then sprinkle with paprika. Bake casserole in preheated oven or roaster, 3 servings.
Time 30 minutes
2 cups potato chips, crushed
1/2 cup paprika
1 tsp. grated onion
1/2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
1/2 tsp. paprika
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