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FARM NEWS

Michigan Among Top Agricultural States; Has Diversified Production

While most out-of-staters generally regard Michigan as an industrial state, most Michigan farmers could tell them that cars, grain and cereals aren't the only thing their state produces in quantity.

If the state suddenly were cut off from the rest of the world, Michigan residents would continue to eat and eat fairly well, according to facts supplied by the Michigan and U. S. Departments of Agriculture.

For, while Michigan ranks only about tenth in the nation as an agricultural state, it can boast of being one of the most diversified of the farming states. This agricultural diversification and wealth in the midst of industrial power is only another aspect of Michigan's greatness which is being emphasized now.

An ideal climate and soil for fruit trees along Michigan's west shore has earned the state the title "Fruit Basket of the Middle West". In the growth of red tart cherries, Michigan ranks first in the nation, and Grand Traverse County has the honor of harvesting more cherries of any kind than any other county in the United States. In 1950, Grand Traverse harvested a bountiful crop of 31,395,000 pounds of cherries.

In the growth of peaches and apples, Michigan has lost and gained ground. Formerly in second place in the growth of peaches, Michigan fell to fourth when last year's crop fell 18 per cent below average. But apple production has increased to such an extent that the state now is one of the top three apple-growing states in the nation. Previously it had only ranked fifth, averaging 7,070,000 bushels from 1942-51. The indicated 1953 figures show that Michigan increased its apple production to 9,984,000 bushels.

Although still in third place, Michigan has also shown an impressive gain in the growth of grapes over the past few years. Its 1942-51 average was 31,589,000 tons, and its 1953 crop was 42,000,000 tons.

In plums the state ranks second among the states and fourth in years. Growth of the latter fruit has also increased considerably in Michigan -- in 1953, 60 per cent over its 1942-51 average.

Truck crops also play an important part in Michigan agriculture. More cantaloupes and pickle cucumbers are grown in Michigan than in any other state, and the state ranks second in the growth of fall and summer celery, onions, and spearmint.

Michigan ranks third in the growth of carrots, cauliflower, sweet corn, cucumbers, strawberries, and tomatoes, and fourth in snap beans and peppermint. In field beans Michigan also stands among the leaders -- in acreage it ranks first; in production, second.

For most Michigan farmers, however, hay, corn, oats and wheat are still the staple crops of importance. Even in those widely raised grains, Michigan doesn't fare badly, ranking eleventh in hay production, tenth in corn, sixth in oats, and sixth in winter wheat.

Located in the largest hay and dairy region of the United States,

PLAN TO PUSH DAIRY PRODUCTS HEAVILY DURING SUMMER

Michigan's giant dairy industry is literally overflowing with milk and an all-out effort is being made to promote the sale of dairy products this summer, especially during Dairy Month.

Setting June as Dairy Month is the first of a series of special events featuring Michigan Dairying, stated F. M. Skiver, Chief of the Bureau of Dairying of the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Other events include a 28-foot float depicting the natural goodness of dairy foods. This float has already appeared at the initial ceremonies of the Straits' bridge and will be an attraction at many local fairs and celebrations this summer.

Michigan's 1954 Dairy Queen, selected from a field of fifty to sixty 4-H Club girls throughout the state, will make several appearances with the large float and individual appearances throughout the summer.

The greatest display of the extent and value of the Michigan dairy industry will probably be at the State Fair at Detroit this fall. The Dairy Queen will present the 1954 Dairy exhibits of Michigan butter and cheese.

Skiver stated that a committee is planning a 30-foot special dairy exhibit for this year's state fair. The dairy industry is cooperating with the State Fair and the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Dairy Month Group Names New Secretary

Extension Dairyman Donald L. Murray of Michigan State College has been chosen secretary to the June Dairy Month committee, a Michigan organization that promotes activities designed to show the public the importance of their dairy industry.

Murray replaces L. N. Francke of Lansing. Louis Morley of Detroit is president of the organization, with Charles Stone of Lansing as treasurer.

FARM-CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 3, National Holstein - Friesian Association Sale, Grand Rapids.

June 7 and 8, 4-H Club Camp Counselors School, Copanac Lake, near Flint.

June 7 and 8, Michigan Artificial Breeders Cooperative Tenth Anniversary Field Day, Michigan State College.

June 9 - 10, 4-H Club Camp Counselors School, Coldwater Lake, near Mt. Pleasant.

Many American milk consumers are a hard-drinking bunch -- they downed more than 12 billion quarts of milk last year. But many adults, as well as children, should drink more for a better diet.

John Clappison Sells Insurance

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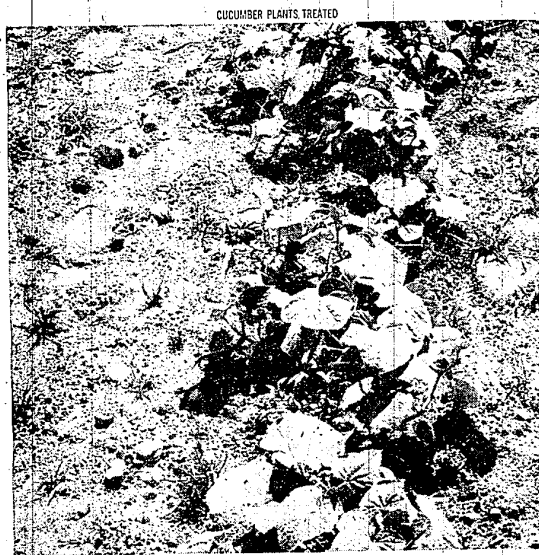


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Think what a saving this means, for Alanap-1 will practically eliminate your hand-weeding costs. Field tests prove that growers of cucumbers, cantaloupes and asparagus, can save from \$35 to \$150 per acre.

What's more, in some cases, experiments actually reveal yield increases where Alanap-1 is sprayed. "During Missouri's extremely rainy conditions of 1951, yields of cantaloupes, cucumbers, squash and watermelons were nearly doubled by

an Alanap-1 pre-emergence application... Plants in untreated rows were severely stunted by weed competition before the fields could be cultivated or hoed, whereas treated (with Alanap-1) rows were still not suffering... two months after planting."

Alanap-1 costs surprisingly little per acre and is easy to apply. One application gives excellent control of a wide variety of weeds from 3-8 weeks--even after heavy rains. Also, Alanap-1 is non-hazardous to humans and animals.

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