

Best Farm Inventions To Be Awarded Prizes

Farmers will have a chance to prove their inventive genius at the 1954 Michigan State Fair, Prizes totaling \$200 will be offered for winners in the "Farm Machinery, Safety and Labor Saving Devices" contest.

Any device designed to be attached to a machine to make it operate more safely or efficiently may be entered. First, second and third prizes will be offered in each of three classes: Junior, under 21 years of age; Senior, 21 years of age or over; and Open, all ages. Exhibitors are limited to one entry in any one class.

All entries must be primarily the product of the exhibitor and will be judged on the basis of originality, practicability, simplicity of design, workmanship and finish of product.

Advise Fertilizing Alfalfa After First Cutting

Fertilizing of alfalfa immediately after the first cutting, pays off in increased yields later and makes the stand stretch out longer, points out James Tyson, Michigan State College soil scientist.

The first crop often depletes the phosphorus and potash and a feeding of 200 pounds of 0-20-20 fertilizer provides the needed plant food.

FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 23, National Refundation on Wheat Marketing Quotas.
July 24, Hereford Association Tour, Iowa.
July 25 - 31, National Farm Safety Week.

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FARM NEWS

The Grist Mill

By RD ALCHIN
County Agricultural Agent

Dairy farmers in Oakland County are greatly concerned over the current milk price situation. The consensus of opinion seems to be that with the drop in farm prices, there should be a drop in retail price which has not occurred to any great extent compared to the drop of four cents a quart that farmers have received in the last two years.

The reason for concern among the farmers is that they believe the only way the surplus of milk can be removed is by increasing sales to the consumer. With the loss of the butter market more and more farmers are interested in getting into the fluid milk market which has added to the worry and of course the surplus. It would seem that this is the logical approach to the problem and it would also seem that any one connected with dairy sales would benefit by a stepped-up sales campaign. It seems to be the hope of the farmers that some type of organized effort involving every one concerned with the dairy business will be forthcoming.

At the present farmers are contributing to the American Dairy Association for the purpose of advertising milk and some few retailers have sales campaigns in full swing. However, a good deal of work out to the benefit of all concerned for this problem. It concerns a multi-million dollar industry in the State of Michigan.

Extra Tractor Parts Will Come In Handy

Farmers find that extra fan belts and radiator hoses come in handy when the harvest season gets rough in warm weather, suggests Robert White, Michigan State College agricultural engineer.

It also pays to keep radiators clear of insects and debris and use rain water in them.

Livestock Men Advise Regular Inspections

A farmer who takes a trip regularly through his fields to inspect his livestock will get more than exercise, remind Michigan State College livestockmen.

It's the only sure way to see that animals have the grazing, feed, water, salt and shade they need and it's a good way to head off diseases before they spread through the herd.

Wheat Farmers To Decide By Vote On Marketing, Production Quotas

Farmers in wheat-growing areas all over the United States will be going to polls this Friday, July 23, to vote their choice on how wheat marketing should be handled in 1955.

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson has called for the vote because wheat supplies are estimated now at 79 per cent of the need. Two-thirds of the voting farmers — anyone planning to have more than 15 acres of wheat to harvest in 1955 — must approve marketing quotas to make them law.

County offices of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation program have set acreage allotments and marketing quotas for farmers on the basis of protected national and state figures.

If two-thirds of the farmers vote "yes" then marketing quotas will govern all farmers with more than 15 acres of wheat to harvest. The quotas will be assessed on their "excess" wheat. Price supports at the national level will be available only to farmers who comply with their acreage allotments on wheat, any other crop allotment set up, and total acreage of crops set for their farms.

If more than one-third vote "no" there will be no marketing quotas and no cash penalties on "excess" wheat, and the price support level will be 50 per cent of parity. Acreage allotments will still hold — and farmers will grow an excess of wheat, or of other crops under allotment, will not be eligible for price supports. It will be a "free" market, otherwise.

Farmers are advised to check with their ASC office or the county agricultural agent for polling places and times.

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SPRAY TOMATOES WITH COMBINATION OF FUNGICIDES

You can save a lot of trouble and time if you combine fungicides in spraying tomatoes.

Mrs. Miriam C. Strong, Michigan State College plant pathologist, suggests combining "insoluble" copper and ziram, at half the usual amounts when used alone. The insoluble copper takes care of the three blights and the ziram controls anthracnose.

She recommends about six sprays during the season, starting when the tomatoes are about the size of a quarter. The spray should be applied about every ten days. In case of a late blight epidemic, however, Mrs. Strong advises using the full amount of copper recommended on the container along with the reduced amount of ziram.

Mrs. Strong claims that the treatment has a longer lasting effect than other fungicides used alone.

Deltsville turkeys, the small, white breed of birds, get plump and meaty while they are still young. These birds are practically free from pinfeathers, too.

Aspirin should not be used as a substitute for heat treatments in canning fruits and vegetables. It cannot be relied upon to prevent spoilage or to give satisfactory products. Adequate heat treatment is the only safe canning procedure, say home economists at MSC.

Weed Corn, Seed Cover Crop While Cultivating

It is not necessary to have wide rows of corn to get a seedling in corn with rye, rye grass or sweet clover. It can be done with the final cultivation, suggests Herbert Pettigrew, Michigan State College farm cropsman.

The seeding will give a winter cover against erosion and a green manure for next spring's crops or some extra hay or pasture.

Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous.

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Few Farmers Have Had Farm Name Registered

Has your farm a registered name?

You know it can be so identified, since the law was adopted more than 12 years ago, only 256 farm owners have availed themselves of the opportunity.

Farm registrations are handled by the Michigan Department of Agriculture's bureau of agricultural industry of which Edward R. Ziemmer is chief. The registration costs only \$1 and the farm owner receives an attractive certificate with seal.

Applications for farm registration may be had by writing the Department at Lansing. When the owner of the farm deed returns the application the name is checked to see that no other farm in the state has the same name. Then the registration certificate is made out, signed by G. S. McIntyre, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, sealed with a gold seal, and mailed to the owner.

The reason so few farms have been registered is because not many farm owners know it is possible to have the individual names of their places certified with the Department.

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