

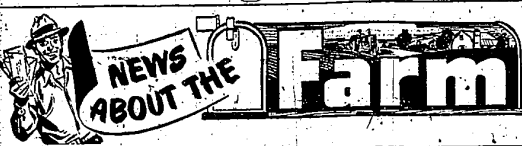
PLAN TO EXPAND TREE FARM PROGRAM

Michigan hopes to move up the national ladder in 1955 in the size and scope of its Tree Farm Program.

At present, the state ranks fifth nationally, but plans for immediate expansion of the program will be carried out in the coming year, says Charles G. Allen, chairman of Michigan Forest Industries, the group that sponsors the work.

Conservation department foresters cooperate in the project which is designed to better utilize the state's tree crop.

Number lot owners interested in the program are asked to contact Bruce G. Ruell at the Patton Logging Company, Amasa, Michigan.



GARDEN

NEW RAILROAD TIE TREATING PLANT TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT EAST TAWAS

About 50,000 railroad ties - nearly 17 miles worth - will be processed annually at a new chemical treating plant to be constructed at East Tawas before spring.

The Demose Process of treating roughly triples the life of a railroad tie and has come into commercial use in the last two decades. Important as a conservation method, it provides ties that last up to 30 years.

All ties to be treated at the East Tawas plant will come from Michigan forests. About 40,000 will be oak and the remainder white cedar.

Construction of the plant is expected to start in January and will be the only commercial treating plant in the lower peninsula.

Although a similar plant is located near Bessemer in the upper peninsula, most such wood needed in the lower peninsula in recent years has been treated outside of Michigan.

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'Twas the day before Christmas

A deep snow had blanketed the streets of Ironwood. Indoors, families were making plans for the festive season. The telephone company, too, was making its preparations for the busiest night of the year.

That was when Mr. and Mrs. Norman H. Thomas, whose home is pictured above, found their telephone was "dead." They called the telephone company from a neighbor's house. As Mr. Thomas later wrote: "In spite

of the fact that this was the day before Christmas, with the added obstacle of a fresh, deep snow, a repairman" arrived in twenty minutes. Within one hour from the time the trouble was reported, he had new lines up and the telephone working.

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*Exchange repairman Robert E. Gathblat

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Vending Machines Boost Milk Sales

Milk vending machines may help farmers meet the milk surplus problem.

A survey of the selling power of cold milk compared to soft drinks in one of the vending machines at Michigan State College shows "nature's food drink" can more than hold its own.

Two milk vending machines and a soft drink machine are side-by-side in Agriculture Hall. During a recent month the milk machines sold 2,593 units of homogenized chocolate and white milk. The soft drink machine sold 2,112 units.

Milk comes in 10-ounce cardboard cartons at 10 cents each; the soft drink in 6-ounce bottles at 6 cents each. So once-for-all sales, the price is the same.

Milk has become a popular mid-morning or mid-afternoon "snack" for students, office workers and staff members.

And hereafter facts to show that vending machines sell additional milk and do not merely cut down on home consumption.

MSU's Shaw dormitory for men houses 1,100 students. The ten milk vending machines there sell approximately 10,000 units each month. Students are allowed four 10-ounce cans of milk a day in the dining room with their meals. The average consumption is about three glasses a day at meals.

"Yet on the average, each student consumes the 10-ounce cans of milk each month from a vending machine."

WILD-PINE MARTEN COMES BACK TO STATE OF MICHIGAN

An old resident, the wild pine marten came back to Michigan last week after an absence of probably more than half a century.

A department of lands and forests forester in the White River area of Ontario, north of Lake Superior, caught one of the quick little tree-living animals and had it shipped to Michigan.

It is being held at Cusino wildlife experiment station in the central upper peninsula.

Several months ago, Michigan conservation department workers set up a project to welcome the marten back and asked help from Ontario in capturing some delegates. The plan was to release enough of the "twinky, three-pound, point-eared creatures so a colony could get started in some remote upper peninsula woods area.

So far trapping efforts have been limited. "We call this first one the lone pine marten," quipped one game warden. "but more work is expected to be done on the project in 1955."

Warning ewes now will help protect your lamb crop, MISC sheepmen advise.

Latest Information On Income Tax Law Changes Available To Farmers

Farmers can get the latest information on changes in the income tax law from a new bulletin just off the press.

Put out by Michigan State College, "Farmers' 1954 Income Tax" can be picked up free at the county agricultural agent's office. Or it is available by writing the Bulletin, Office at Michigan State College, East Lansing.

NSC's farm income tax specialist E. M. Edwood points out that farmers should especially remember these changes in the income tax law: They have one month longer to prepare their final statement and they will have to pay about 10 per cent less tax this year. The deadline for the final return is April 15 instead of March 15.

Children under 19 can earn more than \$500 and still be claimed as dependents if their parents provide more than half their support. The same holds true if the child is 19 or over and full-time students for at least five months of the year.

Medical and dental expenses over three per cent of the adjusted gross income can be deducted if the expenses are listed. The

WILL SEEK TO IMPROVE LIFE OF RURAL PEOPLE

A better life for rural people. That is the goal of the Michigan Rural Challenge Committee which meets Tuesday, January 11, at Michigan State College's Kellogg Center.

The session will be a statewide conference of 75 to 100 farmers and homemakers. It was called by William Brake, Lansing, master of the Michigan State Grange, who is chairman of the organization's executive committee.

The Grange, the Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan Agricultural Conference have invited many other agricultural groups and agencies to be represented.

Brake said those attending will divide themselves into groups. They will spell out major problems in which they are interested and goals they want to reach. Then they will discuss ways to solve the problems and reach the goals.

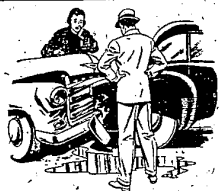
The committees will include these: dairy, poultry, other livestock, vegetables, fruit, flowers and nursery, field and forage crops, fish and wildlife, urban fringe and zoning, reforestation, conservation, rural family living, and farm services.

The Michigan Rural Challenge Committee, Brake explained, will issue a brochure, based on the overall report of the groups. The publication will summarize the goals and recommendations on which the groups have agreed.

Then local groups will have a basis for developing ways to achieve their goals.

Walter W. Wightman, Fennville, of the Michigan Farm Bureau, and Forrest Smith, East Lansing, of the Michigan Agricultural Conference, are serving with Brake on the executive committee.

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Farmers' Week Features Program On Bangs' Fight

Farmers visiting the Centennial Farmers' Week at Michigan State College February 7 to 11 will get the latest word from the men carrying on the fight against brucellosis, or Bang's disease, in Michigan.

The animal husbandry, dairy, and veterinary departments at M. S. C. are presenting a three-day program, "Bang's Facts For You," Tuesday through Thursday during Farmers' Week.

The morning-long program, duplicated each day, will begin with a movie, showing the "Triple Threat of Brucellosis." Assistant State Veterinarian George P. Whitehead, along with U. S. Department of Agriculture and college officials, will demonstrate the tests for the disease and the methods of prevention and control.

Monday, February 7, the first day of Farmers' Week, will again be Dairy Day. All major individual breed meetings will be held during the day on Monday. Then, in the evening, high-breed banquets will bring the individual groups together for dinner and discussion.

For the first time the dairymen will have some competition for interest on the opening day. Monday will also be Horse Day with meetings of the horse breeders and dynamometer associations. These events, along with the various departmental meetings, will be highlighted throughout the week. As usual, the exhibits are expected to be well attended affairs, along with the address by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson on Thursday afternoon in the general session.

To Offer Youth Groups Conservation Awards

The Percy J. Hoffmaster Memorial Fund Board will make ten cash awards of up to \$25 each in May, 1955, for outstanding conservation projects developed by youth groups.

The awards are designed to promote conservation interest among lower grade classes, youth groups and others. Teachers, scoutmasters and other group leaders are urged to contact Bernard Ansley, secretary of the fund, at 419 N. Capitol, Lansing.

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