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Warwick 8-0090**NEWS ABOUT THE FARM****Farmers Invited To Participate In Building Contest**

Michigan farmers and lumber dealers joined this week in a nationwide contest which offers \$10,000 in cash prizes for farm building improvements.

Designed to encourage farmers to make their operation easier and more profitable, the 1955 Farm Building Improvement Contest offers two grand prizes of \$1,600 each and also two prizes each of \$750, \$500 and \$250. There are 40 \$100 prizes.

Local lumber dealers are co-operating with the sponsors of the contest, the National Lumber Manufacturers Association and Better Farming magazine, in advising farmers on their building projects.

Eligible to compete are such projects as a new farm building, the remodeling of an old one, an addition to a building or the construction of such things as penhouses, feeders and other specially-designed devices.

Improvements could be, for instance, easier to build, or more efficient, or more original in plan, or best adapted to the use of new and improved farm practices.

Any project begun after January 1, 1955, and completed before November 1, 1955, is eligible for a prize. The official entry blank can be secured by writing to Better Farming magazine. Entry blanks are free; there is no charge or fee of any kind to enter the contest.

VITAMINS, MINERALS HELPFUL FOR BREEDING FLOCK

Eggs from a breeding flock that lays at high rate don't have to be low in hatchability — if you feed and manage the hens properly.

That's the word from Paul A. Thornton, a graduate student, researcher at Michigan State College. The breeding flock owner has to remember that his hens need more nutrients — especially vitamins and minerals — than a flock that produces only market eggs.

The reduced hatchability of eggs from many flocks won't happen, Thornton asserts, if the owner makes allowance for that factor.

Thornton believes, however, that antibiotics aren't necessary for a healthy breeding flock.

OXYTOCIN DOSE AIDS HELPER IN LETTING DOWN HER MILK

What can you do about those dairy heifers that seem stubborn about letting their milk down? Have your veterinarian give them a dose of oxytocin at milking time, suggests Dr. A. R. Drury, a veterinary researcher at Michigan State College.

The drug is a synthetic version of a hormone normally secreted by the pituitary gland. It goes to work immediately after not more than a couple of injections. Then, Drury claims, the heifer lets down her milk rapidly and continues to do so, usually without further treatment.

A heifer that doesn't let her milk down usually is not stubborn at all, Drury says. Her system just needs to be brought back into adjustment after calving. And a shot or two of oxytocin will do the job.

Soil Testing Becoming Popular With Farmers

Michigan farmers are getting more conscious about the value of soil testing.

John Shekela of Michigan State College's soil science department found that the 53 soil testing labs in the state tested 65,000 samples last year. That's compared to 40,000 in 1953 and 26,000 back in 1950.

Since dairy cattle ketosis comes on often in winter, it pays to be especially watchful now, MSU veterinarians say.

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Stanley R. Nielson**Dairy Cow Disease 'Mastitis' Costs State Farmers Millions Annually**

Farm income of Michigan could jump millions of dollars annually if the state's dairymen would set up individual programs to control bovine mastitis by scientific methods.

Mastitis, the most prevalent disease of dairy cows, cost Michigan dairymen an estimated \$9,134,000 last year. This estimate is based on national statistics, recently compiled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, on the widespread incidence of mastitis.

Dairy husbandry authorities say the present loss from the disease, which affects the udder of the cow, could be sharply reduced by tried and proven methods. They add that mastitis is a very difficult disease problem which even under the best of working conditions is difficult to eliminate completely.

The success of a mastitis program, according to dairy husbandry authorities, depends largely upon preventive measures including accurate diagnosis, adequate sanitary and management practices with close cooperation between the dairyman and his veterinarian.

Also important to a control program is proper treatment of infected cows with antibiotics used singly or in combination.

Mastitis is so common that control is economically important to the farmer owning one dairy cow or a herd. Nationally, the loss from the disease is calculated at \$225,000,000 by the Agriculture Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

On the basis of various reports and research by authorities in the field, the Agriculture Research Service concludes that approximately 30 per cent of all milking cows are affected by mastitis. Thirty per cent is an average since reports show that some herds are as high as 60 per cent infected while in others herds of the disease are negligible.

By applying the national average of mastitis infection to the population of dairy cows in Michigan (953,000) the annual loss in state farm income can be approximated.

These figures are admittedly informed guesses, although the Agriculture Research Service says they are as accurate as possible. Because mastitis is so common and takes many different forms, the loss per cow can vary. Animal health scientists have been unable, despite many attempts through the years, to complete a detailed study of loss. There are no standard methods of reporting mastitis losses on a national basis, and information on the incidence of the disease was obtained through surveys made by individual experts on mastitis.

The overall cost of mastitis is arrived at from these loss factors: the direct reduction of milk production, \$175.5 million, and replacement costs of mastitic cows, and the value of cows that die from the disease, \$50 million.

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... and GARDEN**ISSUES BOOKLET ON USE OF CONCRETE IN FARM MILK HOUSE**

A new booklet entitled "Labor-Saving Concrete Masonry Milk-houses" providing information on proper use of concrete and concrete masonry for milkhouse construction is now available for Michigan dairymen.

The booklet contains suggested ideas, installation of proper equipment, estimates of materials required, and suggestions for concrete construction. All information is in accordance with the U. S. Public Health Service suggested milk code which serves as a model for many local codes.

A clean milkhouse simplifies the job of producing high quality dairy products. Tight concrete floors and walls prevent collection of filth in cracks and are durable under continued washing. In addition, they will not absorb odors which might give milk an off flavor. The saving of cleaning chores which concrete permits is especially helpful since labor cost makes up one-fourth to one-third the total cost of producing milk.

Copies of the illustrated booklet may be obtained free by request to the Portland Cement Association, 2108 Michigan National Tower, Lansing 8, Michigan.

MAY HAVE ANSWER TO PROBLEM OF BEEF LIVER ABCESS

Science may have solved the costly problem of abscessed beef cattle livers that have to be thrown away at packing houses.

The antibiotic, aureomycin, seems to have helped the situation in Nebraska experiments, according to William J. Van Arsdale, a researcher in animal husbandry at Michigan State College. Tablets were fed every day for the first 12 weeks of the calves' lives.

When 10 animals of a lot were slaughtered — when they reached 1,000 pounds — all of the livers passed inspection. But only two of the 10 animals in another lot had usable livers. These cattle had received the same ration but without the antibiotic.

In several previous feeding experiments with steers where no antibiotics were fed, about 75 per cent of the livers were found to be abscessed. And those livers not abscessed showed scar tissue.

All kinds of farmers — dairy, poultry, livestock, fruit, vegetable — and those just interested, will find plenty of attractions at the 36th Farmers' Week, February 7 to 11.

If you're using stilbestrol feed to fatten cattle, better make sure that no other animals get it. That is a warning from Michigan State College animal husbandmen. The hormone, which can be sold to farmers as a part of a feed mix, may harm other livestock.

The federal food and drug administration has approved its use in feeds only for fattening cattle intended for slaughter. That means, say the animal husbandmen, that it should not be used for breeding stock — either dairy or beef — at this time. If it should not be fed to sheep or swine either, the specialists add.

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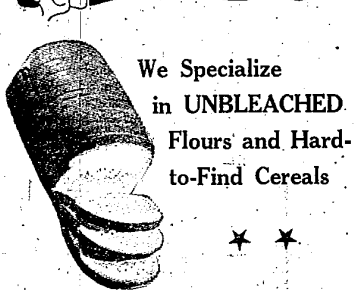
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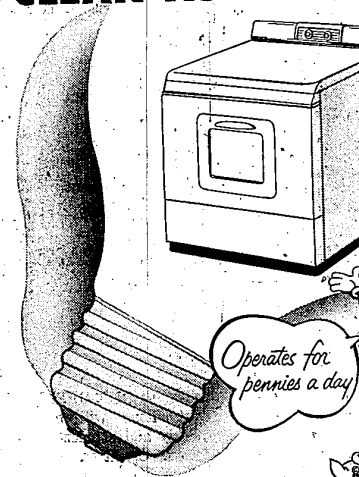
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