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Simple Changes Save Chore Time

Did you know the average dairy farmer can cut up to 120 miles of walking a year from his chore work and still get the necessary jobs done?

That same dairyman is going to spend six hours a day for the next six or seven months doing chore work.

Much of this work can be cut down by a little planning, according to Byron R. Bookout, Michigan State College agricultural economist.

Perhaps the best way to find where to cut is to break the chore work down into separate jobs, he says. "The work can be divided in feeding grain, feeding hay, feeding silage, milking, caring for the milk and utensils, and cleaning the stables.

A few possible changes which Bookout suggests are:

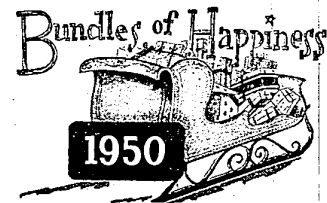
1. Use a feed cart to reduce walking.
2. Use a silage cart which may cut walking 40 per cent.
3. Feeding hay and silage once a day may possibly cut one-third of the work without affecting the herd.
4. Young stock can be kept in a pen where hay can be self fed and silage fed once a day.
5. Cleaning milkers with new washing compounds and disinfectants frequently cuts work and saves time.
6. Improve milking routine by milking cows in order, keeping the units together, cutting out hand stripping, and not leaving the units on the cows too long.

Ideas for cutting time and work are frequently picked up by looking over neighboring farms and by talking with county agents. If you see an idea which looks promising, try it to see if it is worth putting into permanent use, Bookout advises.

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FARM FEATURES



EVERY POUND A CHAMP—Shown above, the Hereford steer "Big Spring Special," carries a lot of weight (1075 pounds). The prize beef won the grand champion steer ribbon for owner Lloyd Robinson, right, 19, of Big Spring, Tex., who accepts the award from the International Livestock Exposition President Jess Andrews, (third from left) in Chicago.

Check Analysis On Buying Fertilizer

Buying standard brand fertilizers is always a good practice. Michigan State College soil scientists explain that some farmers pay "high prices for fancy names" and end up with very little plant food for the dollars they spend.

It's always wise to purchase fertilizer on the basis of cost per unit of plant food, the soils men contend. The analysis of the fertilizer should be on the bag or on a tag attached to the bag.

If it reads 2-12-12, that means there are 27 units of plant food for each hundred pounds total weight — three units of nitrogen; 12 units of phosphoric acid; and 12 units of potash.

If the sum of the figures in the analysis (total nitrogen, available phosphoric acid, and water soluble potash) is less than 20, it is low grade. As a rule, the lower the analysis, the greater will be the cost per unit of plant food.

The farmer should figure the price per unit of plant food for any "new and unusual" fertilizer, and compare it with costs for standard fertilizers. Then he will know whether or not it is a good buy, the specialists contend.

Unwarranted claims, not supported by reliable experimental data, are frequently made for certain low analysis organic by-product materials. Extraneous claims have been made as to the effect of some of these materials not only as a source of plant food nutrients, but also as soil conditioners.

"Order your fertilizer early," is also good advice, the soils men say. Make plans for next year's fertilizer needs and get orders in so you will be sure of adequate supplies.

Whenever possible, use first-calf heifers for dairy herd replacements, because they are less likely to be infected with mastitis than adult animals.

MSC Inaugurates Off-Campus Courses

Dr. Harold J. Dillon, a leading national educator, has been named head of a new program of off-campus courses to be offered by the Continuing Education Service at Michigan State College.

Dr. Dillon, who took over his new post December 1, was national educational director of Junior Achievement, Inc., New York, N. Y., at the time of his appointment. At MSC, he will develop off-campus credit and non-credit courses in cooperation with deans and department heads of the college.

The program will consist of regular college courses in many fields which will be given in various locations throughout the state. Types of courses will vary according to the demands of Michigan citizens, officials said.

Dr. Dillon was formerly specialist in educational problems for the National Child Labor Commission, and taught at Michigan State, New York University and Syracuse University. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Boston University and his Ph.D. degree from Yale University.

MSC REGISTRATION

Winter term registration at Michigan State College will be held January 2 to 4 and classes will begin January 5. An estimated 34,500 students will enroll for classes, according to Registrar Robert S. Linton.

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