Celebrate 71st anniversary in 1976

Clinton County News
Serving the Clinton Area Since 1856
ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN 48879
STAGE Page 2 Section
20-Cents

Massive teacher pink-slipping not forecasted for Clinton County

Columns teacher pink-slipping not forecasted for Clinton County

The St. Johns Chamber of Commerce will open its annual Farmers Market by hosting a "Banquet of the Month" at the Clinton County National Bank Thursday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m. Over 50 vendors are expected to attend this year.

The Farmers Market will be held at the Clinton County Historical Society. In addition to local produce, the market will feature a wide variety of arts and crafts, including handcrafted items, baked goods, and specialty foods. The market will be open every Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., running from May 1 to September 30.

The Chamber of Commerce encourages everyone to support local businesses and visit the Farmers Market to experience the unique offerings and enjoy the community atmosphere.

10 students selected for "The Jazz Singer"

Ten students from Clinton County have been selected to perform in "The Jazz Singer," a musical about the life of F.D.R. Ebert, the former governor of Michigan.

The selected students will perform key roles, with three of them playing the lead role of F.D.R. Ebert. The musical will be presented at the Clinton County High School auditorium on April 14. For more information, contact the school's drama department.

Hila Bross is July 4 Grand Marshall

Hila Bross has been named the July 4 Grand Marshall for the St. Johns parade. She was nominated by her friends and family for her dedication to the community and her contributions to local events.

Hila Bross was born and raised in St. Johns and has been an active member of the community for many years. She is known for her organizational skills and her ability to coordinate events.

Bicentennial calendar

STUDENTS IN grades 4 through 8 at Clinton High School are invited to participate in the Clinton County Bicentennial program. For each book purchased from the Clinton County Historical Society, students will receive a punch card that can be redeemed for prizes.

The program includes a variety of activities, such as historical tours, quilt making, and a special ceremony at the courthouse. The events will be held throughout the year, with the final celebration scheduled for July 4.

Just 9 Days Left to Register for the Student Bicentennial Arts and Crafts Show (grades 7 thru 12)

The Student Bicentennial Arts and Crafts Show will take place on May 13, 2023, at the Clinton County High School. The show is open to students in grades 7 through 12, and registration is due by May 1.

The show will feature various art forms, including paintings, sculptures, and crafts. Students are encouraged to display their work and compete for awards.

STARS FRIDAY

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JOURNEY TO THE STARS

Teacher pink slips

By From Front Page

For the fourth time, however, they are not being asked to "just think and vote," with the legislature saying their decision.

The ballot system again is being asked to "think and vote," with the legislature saying their decision.

According to state law, school districts must give 60 days notice to probationary teachers.

Already, around the mid-state area, the teachers have had their contracts canceled if they are not rehired.

The legislature made their decision, saying that teachers must be rehired within a reasonable time frame.

This action is justified in terms of declining enrollments. The teachers will soon be seeking other employment.

The new law states that the district must give the teachers 60 days notice before deciding to rehire them.

The unicameral legislature has passed a law that allows school districts to reduce the number of teachers.

The teachers have been notified that they will not be rehired at the end of the school year.

The school districts must give the teachers 60 days notice before deciding to rehire them.

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**Announce tour of Clinton County dairy operations**

All interested persons are invited to join the Clinton County Farm Bureau for the tour of the Simon farm near St. Johns on Thursday, April 19, 1979. Breakfast will be at 8 a.m. at the home of the Simon family. Departure will be at 8:30 a.m. from the Clinton County Farm Bureau office. The tour will stop at the Simon farm and the following dairy operations in the area.

**First stop — the Simon farm**

Located near St. Johns, the Simon farm is a 90-cow dairy operation. The tour will begin at the Simon farm and proceed to the neighboring farms of the Thelen and Spitzley farms. The tour will conclude at the Feldpausch farm.

**Second stop — the Thelen farm**

The Thelen farm is located near St. Johns and is a 100-cow dairy operation. The tour will continue to the neighboring farms of the Simon and Spitzley farms. The tour will conclude at the Feldpausch farm.

**Third stop — the Spitzley farm**

The Spitzley farm is located near St. Johns and is a 100-cow dairy operation. The tour will continue to the neighboring farms of the Thelen and Feldpausch farms. The tour will conclude at the Feldpausch farm.

**Fourth stop — the Feldpausch farm**

The Feldpausch farm is located near St. Johns and is a 100-cow dairy operation. The tour will conclude at the Feldpausch farm.

**Induct Rotary members**

Glen Owenowen (left) of Smithfield Rotary, presented the insignia of Rotarian to St. Johns Rotarians members during the annual induction ceremony. The ceremony took place at the Rotarian Club meeting held in the Smithfield Junior High School. All Rotarians members are required to attend the induction ceremony each year.

**Mortgage Money To Lend.**

If you've been thinking about buying or building a home — think Capitol Savings & Loan. We've been lending money for homes since 1880 and we've got money to lend home buyers — now. Ask a "Big C" home loan specialist to explain our loan plans to you. Drop in today at any of our convenient locations where you'll get sound, practical advice.

**骄 protected by IBM**

**Look**

**Click this coupon**

**This week's special!**

**You buy 4 Spark plugs...**

**Bee's fertilizer!**

**You buy the points...**

**Bee's fertilizer the competitor!**

**On any tuneup, Bee's will furnish 55 the plugs needed & the condenser needed. Bring coupon to Bee's.**

**World's sweetest place to deal.**

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*Image and text data extracted from a historical document.*
Blue Star Mothers to sell Blue Stars

All officers of the Blue Star Mothers Chapter are invited to attend the meeting of the County Council on April 30 at 7 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Edna Eldred. The purpose will be to plan a chapter project in the near future.

Ashley United Methodists announce Lenten services

Special Lenten Services at the Ashley United Methodist Church will be scheduled for Lent. The schedule will be as follows: "The Trinity Service" on Tuesday, April 1; "The Sprinkling of the People" on Wednesday, April 2; "The Palms Service" on Thursday, April 3; "The Maundy Thursday Service" on Friday, April 4; and "The Good Friday Service" on Saturday, April 5.

Morning Musicale hears music by Foster

"Music by Foster" was the subject of a delightful program presented by the Lansing Matinee Musicale Choral Ensemble to Morning Musicale members of the St. Johns Musicale Choral Ensemble at a joint meeting of the two clubs on Thursday, March 25th at 2:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Pat Foster-Zeneberg, former Karol Zeneberg.

The bride-elect is a 1974 graduate of St. Johns High School and will graduate in June with a degree in education. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Ray of Mount Pleasant, a former pastor of the Ashley and Bannister Churches. His sermon titles will be: "The Wind and the Spirit;" "The Great Evangelist in God's Hands.""
Robin Casey Wolf wedded Stephen Davis

Robin Casey Wolf and Stephen Davis were married March 27 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Lansing.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Wolf, 1101 S. Lansing Street, Lansing, and the son is the son of Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Davis, 701 N. Clinton Street, Lansing.

The reception was held in the church's Fellowship Hall.

Bibliography

**Notice City of St. Johns Zoning Board of Appeals April 14, 1976**

The last public hearing at the Lansing Courthouse was attended by several residents of the area.

The meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Lansing Courthouse.

**Health Clinic **

**Births**

**Celebrate golden anniversary**

**North Bengal News**

**Auxiliary members honored**

**Florsheim**

**Pouch home site of DAR meet**

**NOTICE CITY OF ST. JOHNS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APRIL 14, 1976**

To be held in the city recreation chambers at 7:00 p.m. at 1101 S. Lansing Street.

**Purpose:** To hear a request from Peddie Brothers Inc. for a variance of the zoning ordinance to allow a fast-food restaurant at 100 S. Clinton Street.

**Property Address:** 100 S. Clinton St.

**Tax Roll No.:** 1351-00

**Watch for Our Special Day This Friday, April 2, 1976 ALL DAY 9 A.M. TO 9 P.M.**

**We will have a manufacturer's representative in our store to assist you in recognizing the old diamond jewelry and selecting new gifts of diamonds and jewelry.**

**A Good Day to Play Your Coming Events**

**Harr's Jewelry**

Open 6 days a week until 5:30, Fri., Sat. 9 P.M.

**SCHOOL LUNCH MENU**

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SETTLEMENT FORCES WERE IN STATE OF SEIGE DURING 1777

It was 1777 — the time of the American Revolution. The British were at the height of their power and influence, and their forces were spread thin across the colonies. The American colonists were fighting for their independence, and the settlers were preparing for the worst.

The settlers had gathered in small settlements to protect themselves from the British and their Native American allies. They built forts and stockades to keep the invaders at bay. They were determined to defend their homes and their way of life.

The settlers were also preparing for a possible British attack. They had to be ready to defend themselves and their communities. They had to be prepared to fight for their freedom.

The settlers were determined to fight for their independence. They were willing to do whatever it took to protect themselves and their families. They were ready to fight for their future.

SETTLEMENT FORCES WERE IN STATE OF SEIGE DURING 1777.

The settlers were prepared for battle. They were ready to defend themselves and their communities. They were determined to fight for their freedom.

The settlers were a proud and independent people. They were willing to do whatever it took to protect themselves and their families. They were ready to fight for their future.
Police and public join in Citizens Resource Committee program

In an effort to bring community law enforcement and public safety entity experts and concerned citizens together to face the responsibilities of providing these services, especially in those areas of public opinion and public attitude that have been identified as a Clinton County Community Crime Prevention Project concern.

The committee, which was organized last fall under the leadership of Lt. Pat Long, will hold its regular meeting this Thursday, March 31, at 7:30 p.m. in the city commission chambers, 121 E. Walker Street. The purpose of this meeting will be to review and discuss the activities of the Michigan State Police Citizens Resource Committee and to plan future committee activities.

The Michigan State Police Citizens Resource Committee was organized to develop a comprehensive program of public education with the intent of creating an environment conducive to law enforcement.

The committee will seek input from the public, including service industry groups, law enforcement agencies, and the general public on how the state police can maximize community relating to matters of crime, laws, and public safety. The committee will also provide insight into local law enforcement programs, functions, and activities of the Michigan State Police.

Committee members serve in an advisory capacity to the Post Commander, without personal or professional qualifications which might place them at risk of bias or special interest to public safety.

Committee members will seek to create a cooperative environment in which public and law enforcement agencies will be at ease answering questions and helping the public understand the limitations and opportunities to better serve the people of this area.

The committee has been meeting since November to determine the most effective way to conduct the project using a series of seminars consisting of small group discussions. The goal is to bring together community leaders, law enforcement officials, citizens, and other concerned persons to discuss, question, and debate topics of mutual concern.

The project is funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of State Police. The Michigan State Police Citizens Resource Committee was organized to develop a comprehensive program of public education with the intent of creating an environment conducive to law enforcement.

The committee will seek input from the public, including service industry groups, law enforcement agencies, and the general public on how the state police can maximize community relating to matters of crime, laws, and public safety.
Farm Bureau News

Computerized health survey, testing program is available

Clinton County along with all Michigan counties have been participating in the National Cooperative Committee's computerized health examination program to make available to our members a comprehensive health survey and testing service.

The physical examinations will be provided in the local area at a cost of $9.95 with the remaining costs being covered by the Michigan Farm Bureau. A free health education pack will also be given to all members related to the Cooperative Committee and all the benefits provided.

Participation in the program is entirely on a voluntary basis.

M.J. Buschlein, manager, Michigan Agriculture Commissioner, who is one of the backgrounders has been taken to the hospital for immediate treatment. After the doctors have been in a coma for a month, a gentle recovery is being planned. The committee has advised members that the software has been released.

Meet your Farm Bureau Agent

Don Keim

Don Keim joined Farm Bureau Insurance Group in June 1975 when he became a member of the Clinton County agency. Commissioned by John Crum, Clinton County Farm Bureau's general manager, Keim started with Farm Bureau insurance with $150,000 in premiums sold. This first year he joined the company.

Calendar of Farm Bureau events

April

1 Farm Bureau Women's District Meeting - Owosso High School 9:30 a.m. 

4 Clinton County Farm Bureau Women's Meeting - Owosso City Hall, 2 p.m. (Betty C. Pifer)

7 Farm Bureau Women's Meeting - Owosso City Hall, 2 p.m. (Betty C. Pifer)

16 Young Farmers Monthly - Owosso 7:30 p.m. (Gene Class)

21 Farm Bureau Women's Meeting - Owosso City Hall, 2 p.m. (Betty C. Pifer)

Young Farmers host neighboring counties

The Clinton County Young Farmers sponsored a breakfast March 31 in the St. Johns High School auditorium for 50 guests from the Shiawassee County Young Farmers. There were 14 representatives from each county.

Don't throw away $5 members!!!

Along with your 1976 membership card you were sent a certificate with 5s on it. These are 5s and are not a BC/BS way related to Blue Cross-Blue Shield and is not a BC/BS benefit. For more members can take advantage of this program on the same paper, but the program will expire soon. Extra money will be paid to the donor of these certificates and you and your neighbors are to take advantage of this program on the same paper.
Achievement Day - Smith Hall

Achievement Open House - a.m. - 5 p.m.

Hear-and often they think that an iceberg. Most people are book, Peoplemaking, says parents understand those feelings and needs. The series will deal with:

1. Ways people work out to make about the sessions, or to come, first-serve basis and will

2. Cleanup Project - All Youth with rope, making camping will clean up the area east of the County Youth Roadside

3. The quilt was made with the project before it will be

4. The program was inaugurated in Michigan farms have been from John and Marareth father of the present owners, Michigan history.

5. Robert Scarborough of DeWitt joyous day.

6. We've been in the agricultural lending business over that such issues as rising unemployment, land use con­

7. For this purpose, the farmers who had suffered contamination. The maximum losses on this magnitude.

8. Charles Bracey®,

9. We'll determine from the salesperson

10. Legislators would provide loans for PPI contamina­tion.

11. Applications, for, Centennial Committee be impressed with already passed the Senate.

12. Most of the "Salute 76" were shown to their attention again.

13. It to their attention again.

14. Over 500 Michigan farms have been quarantined because desperately needed," Cederberg concluded.

15. It to their attention again.

16. Citizens who are most vocal and opinions but who seldom voice a county commissioner, or interested can have a copy -

17. Several Small Tool and urban households. In other par­

18. We'll tabulate the results for sonle counties, par­

19. That such issues as rising unemployment, land use con­

20. Clean, family Wedding of Linda and urban households. In other par­

21. The aim of the survey is to poll for PPI pollution?

22. As we've been in the agricul­

23. Michigan history.

24. Volunteers will be needed because.

25. The existing 24-hour telephone number, 517-669-3797 will stop working.

26. The maximum losses on this magnitude.

27. We'll also pinpoint the opinions

28. We'll also pinpoint the opinions

29. This will give a broad picture of the public opinion on various issues in various groups.

30. We also rely promptly. We also relied

31. To each of the questions in the survey.

32. Approximately 13,000 citizens

33. The results of the survey to put a

34. Other groups such as

35. The survey was designed to get a broad picture of the public opinion on various issues in various groups.

36. We'll tabulate the results for sonle counties, par­

37. The farmers who had suffered contamination. The maximum losses on this magnitude.

38. Charles Bracey®,

39. We'll determine from the salesperson

40. Legislators would provide loans for PPI contamina­tion.

41. Applications, for, Centennial Committee be impressed with already passed the Senate.

42. Most of the "Salute 76" were shown to their attention again.

43. It to their attention again.

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62. Approximately 13,000 citizens
Next Week in Clinton County churches

All churches in Clinton County are invited to send weekly announcements to The Clinton County News. They must reach us by 8 a.m. Monday to insure publication in the current week's issue.
<table>
<thead>
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<td>Top Round Steaks</td>
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<td>Sirloin Tip Roast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large Eggs</td>
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<td>Semi-Boneless Ham</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Cottage Cheese</td>
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<td>Plain or Iodized Morton Salt</td>
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<td>California Seedless Navel Oranges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margarine</td>
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**Kroger Mini-Mizer Coupon:**
- Pay 60¢, Get 70¢
- Pay 54¢, Get 70¢
- Pay 60¢, Get 94¢
- Pay 21¢, Get 30¢
- Pay 10¢, Get 21¢
- Pay 5¢, Get 10¢
- Pay 5¢, Get 10¢
- Pay 10¢, Get 19¢
- Pay 5¢, Get 10¢
- Pay 5¢, Get 10¢

**Store Hours:**
Most stores open 24 hours for your shopping convenience!
Michigan 48811. (517) 584-3131

1A CLINTON COUNTY NEWS, ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN March 31, 1976

Time position needed for school graduates, high school

FOR SALE - FARM LAND -
frontage on DeWitt Road, and
609 N. Morton Phone 224-7913

WANTED - The St. Johns Police Co. has sponsored an evening, high school
graduates, high school among others, who want to join us. We have
now are college

Cattle

C tile for sale.

Real Estate

FOR SALE - PANER LAND
Mitsubishi property in Sec. 25 Lot 15 Ballantine’s Wee Fms.

Mobile Homes

WASTERS - Call for special

MOTORCYCLE OWNERS -
claim service, purchase your
resale. Easlick Properties Inc.

Miscellaneous

LIVESTOCK

MICHIGAN LIVESTOCK

Listings of livestock.

FOR SALE - MORTGAGE

due Monday, and Wednesday.

FREE RENT TO MAY 1, 1976
MOVE YOUR MOBILE HOME TO ST. JOHNS MOBILE HOME VILLAGE
WE WILL PAY MOVING COSTS

St. JOHNS MOBILE HOME VILLAGE

108 N. Huron

St. JOHNS, MICH.

March 31, 1976

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE...ADVERTISE WHERE IT PAYS...

the market place

Call 224-2361

NOW!
March 31, 1976

**CLINTON COUNTY NEWS, ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN 49089**

**Welcoming the Bath sewer**

Residents qualified Saturday for their anticipated fight against the Bath sewer.

About 18 months ago, Bath officials were notified by DeWitt officials that the city of DeWitt was planning to construct a sewer system and that a portion of the sewer system would pass through Bath.

Bath officials were notified by the DeWitt officials that the sewer system was necessary to connect Bath to the existing sewer system in DeWitt. However, Bath officials were concerned about the cost of the sewer system and the impact it would have on their residents.

Saturday, residents qualified for their anticipated fight against the Bath sewer. Bath residents were ready for use and residents were putting in their names to sign up for the sewer system.

**Business Association makes appointments**

The Tri-County Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), will be hosting Bob's Auto Body at the Bourbon Steakhouse on Thursday, May 6th. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM and will be presented by John Woodruff.

RSVP is a program that connects retired people with community needs. The program is funded by the federal Social Services Administration (SSA) and is coordinated by the Michigan Council on Aging (MCOA).

Bob's Auto Body, located at 200 S. Main St., St. Johns, is a family-owned business that has been in operation for over 60 years. The business specializes in auto body repair and painting, as well as collision repair.

The meeting will be held at the Bourbon Steakhouse, located at 200 W. Main St., St. Johns. The cost is $10 per person and reservations are required. For more information, please call RSVP at 989-572-0060.

**Retired senior volunteers honored at luncheon**

The DeWitt Child Study Club honored retired senior volunteers who have contributed their time and expertise to various community agencies.

The luncheon was held at the DeWitt High School Auditorium on March 13.

The DeWitt Child Study Club thanks all retired volunteers who have contributed their time and expertise to various community agencies.

The club is scheduled to meet again on May 1st. For more information, please call Faye Hanson at 989-966-6000.

**Schedule water quality workshop**

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is holding a water quality training workshop for local government officials, water system operators, and public health officials on April 18th.

The workshop will cover topics such as water quality management planning, the primary focus of the session is to ensure that all communities have a plan in place to protect their water supplies.

The workshop will be held at the Lansing Conference Center, located at 100 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, Michigan. The cost is $100 per person and reservations are required. For more information, please call the DEQ at 517-373-2400.

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To buy a compact car or not to buy... that is the question

According to a recent survey conducted by the American Automobile Association, approximately 40% of American drivers prefer compact cars over larger vehicles. The survey revealed that compact cars are often chosen for their fuel efficiency, lower maintenance costs, and easier parking capabilities.

However, some drivers may be hesitant to switch to a compact car due to concerns about cargo space, driving comfort, and styling. To address these issues, automakers have developed compact cars that offer more features and amenities than ever before. Some models even come equipped with advanced safety features and technology, including lane departure warning and automatic emergency braking.

Ultimately, the decision to buy a compact car or not depends on individual needs and preferences. If you prioritize fuel efficiency and convenience, a compact car may be the way to go. But if you need more space and luxury, a larger vehicle may be a better fit.

In conclusion, compact cars are a popular choice among drivers, and they continue to evolve to meet changing needs and preferences. Whether you choose to make the switch or stick with your current vehicle, the most important thing is to make a decision that works best for you and your lifestyle.
GET THE FARM
Ready for Spring!

2nd Annual
CLINTON COUNTY

FARM REVIEW & FORECAST

BICENTENNIAL ISSUE

Clinton County News

Serving the Clinton Area Since 1856

March 31, 1976
It's Getting That Time Again... If You Need Money for

- NEW MACHINERY
- SEED FOR SPRING PLANTING
- LAND IMPROVEMENTS
- MORE LAND
- REMODEL-FARM HOME
- LIVESTOCK
- MACHINERY REPAIR

ARRANGE FOR THE MONEY YOU NEED WITH A LOW COST FARM LOAN... FROM US!

CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK
OF ST. JOHNS

The role of livestock in a hungry world

By Jim Pelham
Extension Director

I read this abstract of a speech given by Dr. J.A. Hoefer, Associate Director of Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. Hoefer is a Professor of Animal Husbandry and was one of my more interesting teachers at M.S.U. when he began work there nearly 25 years ago. I thought our readers might like to share his observations.

Animals make a unique contribution to the food chain. However, to put things in proper perspective, their role must be viewed in the light of the very complex world food situation. Too many simplistic solutions have been advanced by “experts” who do not fully understand the complexities of the food production and distribution system.

It is frequently stated that to increase food supplies for humans, priority should be given to using grains for human consumption—that the animal is a direct, inefficient competitor of the human for energy and protein. Data are cited that in the U.S., the per capita consumption of grain is from 1500 - 2000 lbs., whereas in the disadvantaged nations the per capita consumption of grain is approximately 400 lbs. It is then concluded that an animal food economy is highly inefficient, immoral, and should be eliminated.

There is some truth and logic and likewise many flaws in the conclusion that animals should be eliminated from the food chain. Animals make a number of unique contributions to society thus filling niches in the food production chain that can't be occupied by plant foods. Animals produce foods of the highest quality protein known—meat, milk and eggs. Animal products also provide about 25 percent of the total energy, 97 percent of the calcium, 89 percent of the phosphorus, and significant amounts of other minerals plus riboflavin, niacin and vitamin B-12.

In addition to food, animals provide many other useful products such as leather, wool, hair, lanolin, certain enzymes (enzymes), and many pharmaceuticals (insulin).

Animals eat foods we cannot or will not eat. They thrive on grasses (pastures, hay) that are the only thing that will grow on over 60 percent of our farm land. Worldwide, there are two areas of non-cropland for every acre capable of producing grain. Animals recycle wastes and utilize non-protein nitrogen. A fantastic amount of stored cellulosic energy would go to waste without animals.

Animals are relatively inefficient converters of feed proteins (grains) to food. Feeding programs are being changed to less grain and more roughage in response to economic shifts.

Companion animals as well as recreation animals will experience increasing pressures as the demands for food (and feed) increase resulting in short supplies and high prices.

Agricultural research, particularly in the areas of reproduction, disease control, selective breeding, nutrition, physiology, waste management, and environment control has shown much promise in increasing the productivity and efficiency of animals.

Animal products are not likely to be eliminated from menus even if world food shortages become extremely critical.

Agrifact... In 1825, the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture offered a gold medal worth $50 to any person who shall have started or farming without using any utensils, spouts on his property, except when prescribed by a physician, for a period of two years. There was no claimant for the premium. Proof of home skills for many years was the chief cash crop of farming.

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PHONE (517) 224-4713 or 224-4300
Large scale agriculture: the trend is upward

U.S. farms will have to become larger and more industrialized to remain in business, says Michigan State University Agricultural Economist Leonard Kyle.

"The management problems of smaller farms, especially those of full-time operators grossing under $20,000, are becoming more acute. Many are in a no-win position right now," Kyle says.

Operational costs decrease up through three men for most types of farms but there are also significant advantages for larger operations having adequate capital and good management.

"LARGER UNITS can often sell at higher prices because of the output volume they can deliver to a customer in a short time. They also buy most of their inputs on a bid basis and may get a 15 percent discount on prices," Kyle says.

"To get costs down to a competitive basis, a minimum of 400 to 1,000 acres should comprise a cash crop farm in a few years and 5,000 acre units are feasible," Kyle says.

"Regardless of legislation, farm size must be allowed to expand. There is going to be real pressure from the tightly held and managed units grossing $200,000 to $1 million annually. A good two-man-plus unit can produce in the bottom end of this range," Kyle concludes.

Early milkers not productive

Cows of the Colonial farmer were far cry from the prolific milk producers which are found on today's modern dairy farms.

Milk yields were extremely low. Israel Acrelius, a farmer and writer of the time, reported in 1759, "Where the pasture is fair, a cow does not give less than two quarts of milk at a time - that is, twice a day." Cows today commonly produce 25 quarts a day. And it's not unusual for a cow to produce 50 quarts in a day and some exceptional animals have produced 75 and more quarts in a single day.

There was not much improvement in Colonial cows until after 1790, when farmers began to produce forage crops in more abundance. As the half-starved animals ate better, the production of milk gradually began to increase. Around 1800, more attention to the breeding of dairy cattle began to have an effect on milk production.
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The Hub Tire Center

CHARLES WEBER, Manager

Phone 224-3218

What's that land worth?

Declaring how much to pay or what percentage of the crop to share in a land rental agreement needs careful consideration.

"Contracts and rental rates vary by area and crop and depend on the amount of land for rent, potential number of renters, and type and length of rental arrangements," says Dr. Gerald D. Schwalb, Michigan State University agricultural economist.

Leasing land can be viewed as a method to control land with relatively limited financial requirements. But the tenant may lack security of land control, may not be able to reap all the rewards due a tenant's managerial ability and is not able to benefit from an increase in land value, Schwalb points out.

Last year's rental prices for tiled land ranged from below $10 per acre for corn to $110 per acre for sugar beets. Untiled lands ranged from $1 to $75 per acre.

The following average cash prices paid for tiled lands:
- native grass pasture, $19.68
- renovated pasture, $25.06
- corn, $31.80
- soybeans, $39.09
- field beans, $35.79
- alfalfa, $35.28
- grass hay, $19.56
- sugar beets, $60
- potatoes, $28.13

Average cash prices paid for untiled lands were:
- native grass pasture, $9.12
- renovated pasture, $18.17
- corn, $19.82
- soybeans, $21.97
- field beans, $18.74
- alfalfa, $19.40
- grass hay, $14.57
- sugar beets, $21.50
- potatoes, $28.13

Another rental method is to split the crop yield with the landlord, generally on a 50-50 or one-third, two-thirds basis.

On a 50-50 share basis, the crop is equally divided with the landlord. The tenant furnishes all the labor, power and machinery. The cost of seed, fertilizers, weed and insect control is split equally.

Harvesting and hauling costs may be halved, or often the tenant furnishes all of the harvesting and sometimes all of the hauling costs.

Under the one-third, two-thirds sharing arrangement, 67 percent of the crop is received by the tenant, who furnishes all the labor, power, machinery, weed and insect control, harvesting and hauling.

The fertilizer expense is often shared in the same proportion as the crop yield. The seed cost may be shared in this proportion, but usually the tenant furnishes all the seed.

There is no one correct share proportion to recommend. But the basic principle is that income should be divided in the same proportion as the expense of production is shared, Schwalb says.

STRONGPANEL
Features and Benefits

BOARD AND BATTEN BEAUTY
The distinctive STRONGPANEL rib design creates a continuous, eye-pleasing shadow pattern that adds a unique board-and-batten beauty to walls, enhances any style of architecture, gives the Bold Look to all types of buildings... tall and stanch, light commercial, light industrial, municipal, residential, and recreational.

HIGH-TENSILE STRENGTH
High-tensile steel and unique design give STRONGPANEL maximum load-carrying capacity — which provides exceptionally high-spanning properties for its thickness and weight — and spring-like resistance to abuse.

STRONGPANEL also provides a great degree of diaphragm strength that contributes to the lateral stability of a building. Fastened to girts, STRONGPANEL panels form an effective vertical wall diaphragm that distributes wind loads; fastened to purlins, they form a horizontal roof diaphragm that distributes snow loads. This literally holds the building together and eliminates or decreases the need for extra structural bracing.

WEATHERTIGHT PROTECTION
The STRONGPANEL design permits a free flow of water runoff, and a non-leak drainage channels out any water that might be forced into its snug-fitting side lap. Wide 30-inch cover width (32-inch panel width) and long lengths (up to 30 feet) result in fewer side and end laps and a tighter, stronger, neater-looking building.

QUICK, EASY APPLICATION
STRONGPANEL lays flat and nests lightly at side and end laps. A special strip on top of the main ribs positions fasteners to assure correct, neat application. STRONGPANEL provides a rigid, safe working platform that is comfortable to sit, kneel or stand on and shows no application abuse. Wide cover width and long lengths speed application because of fewer panels and rows, less fitting and fastening.

ACCESSORIES
A complete line of matching galvanized and color-coated STRONGPANEL accessories is available to trim and finish building exteriors (see back cover).

ECONOMY
Greater strength permits wider nailer spacing for STRONGPANEL; this reduces purlin and girt requirements and speeds framework construction. Wide cover width and long lengths mean fewer panels to buy and apply, less loss at side and end laps, fewer fasteners, faster application. Result: Lower material and labor costs.

DURABILITY
Galvanized STRONGPANEL is hot-dip zinc-coated for protection against corrosion and years of maintenance-free service. Color-coated STRONGPANEL provides even greater durability.

Stop By And Let Us Discuss Your Needs . . .

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LUMBER COMPANY
407 N. Clinton Ave. ST. JOHNS Phone 224-2358

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NO. 2 AND B & R PENTAB TREATED SOUTHERN YELLOW PINE POLE

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CENTER MATCH NO. 2 AND BT.

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Scarcity of many grain seeds and the seed for good crop production to meet domestic and world market demand are incentives for good seeding practices this spring.

Proper seeding spacing in the row is necessary to obtain the best yield possible according to the plant type grown. Factors affecting spacing include crop use, row width, crop type and soil condition. Planting seeds too close together results in excessive plant competition for water and nutrients. It can cause barrenness in corn and lodging in soybeans. But too wide a spacing results in incomplete use of water and nutrients. There may be more suckers on corn plants and often lower yields of corn, soybeans and field beans.

It has been customary to express planting rates for field seeds in pounds or bushels per acre. But with the large number of varieties with considerable variation in seed size, other terms to describe the seed size appear more appropriate. Seeds per foot of row might be a relative designation for soybeans, field beans and grain sorghum. It is now common to use "inches between seeds" for hybrid corn. Using these designations, the same seed planting rate may be used for each variety regardless of seed size or how the lot is screened or graded. To calculate total seed requirements for a field, you need to know number of seeds per pound. To be accurate, determine the number of seeds in the lot to be planted. Weigh out an ounce of seed and count the number of seeds. Multiply this number by 4 to get the number of seeds per pound. Another method is to weigh out a quarter pound of seed, count the seeds, then multiply by 4 to get the number of seeds per pound. Seeds per bushel can be obtained by multiplying the seeds per pound by the number of pounds in a bushel for the crop being planted.

Want a rugged, high-capacity grain dryer that you can always count on to retain a high throughput value and keep right on drying, year after year? Then a BEHLEN batch type dryer or a variable Batch-Matic is for you. "Wrap around grain holding compartments" combines with large extra bags to greatly reduce drying time.

Even husking bee started with Indians

Colonial farmers adopted not only many agricultural practices from the Indians consuming corn, but they borrowed at least one social custom, too. Indian corn culture had already differentiated between regular corn crops and the more succulent sweet corn varieties believed developed by the IroquoisIndians. Recipes for succotash and hasty pudding, also called lobolly, were also borrowed from the Indians. One facet of the corn diet the colonists didn't adopt was the addition of dog meat. They preferred the more customary salt beef, salt pork or cheese.

 thief borrowing of many of these practices from the Indians was well recog­nized, lesser known is the belief that even the husking bee originated with the Indi­ans. This combination of work and frivolity was popular on early farms. One custom that developed dictated any man who husked an ear of corn laden with red kernels could claim a bite from any girl at the bee. A form of this practice was part of the culture of the Iroquois.
Brush up on bean marketing economics

Michigan bean producers who hope to profit in an unstable market must find ways to lower costs of production and increase yields per acre, advises a Michigan State University Extension marketing agent.

"Every farmer likes to see a good price per hundredweight," says Quentin Ostrander. "But the amount a farmer produces per acre and the price per unit determines his profit."

Ostrander described the economics of staying in the bean business during one session of the 1976 Michigan Dry Bean Day at the Saginaw Civic Center, Feb. 24.

BEAN PRODUCTION and marketing specialists covered such issues as inoculation, marketing economics, bean drying, and insecticides. Bean yield, weed control, and choice of bean varieties.

In a panel discussion, three successful bean growers addressed the question of whether minimum tillage works for beans, how to achieve consistently good yields and what production information is needed for profits.

In a concurrent program for consumers, an MSU Extension consumer marketing agent, Jan Jacobson, presented ways to use colored beans in your menu. Her presentation included recipes and taste testing.

It looks as if Michigan's navy bean plantings will be up by about six percent next season, according to the Crop Reporting Service. Ostrander says neighboring states, too, are showing an interest in planting navy beans. That could mean an ample crop year, leading to lower prices to producers.

THE PROBABLE reason for increased acreage is this year's high prices, Ostrander explains. If the price of beans is higher than the price of other commodities, two things usually occur: first, consumers turn from beans to other lower-priced food items. And second, cash crop producers plant more acreage because prices for beans are higher.

During an afternoon session of the Saginaw Bean Day, Ostrander explained how individual farmers can cope with the ups and downs of the bean market.

Besides the seminar session, participants can view exhibits of equipment, seed and chemicals.

The program was sponsored by MSU's Cooperative Extension Service, the Michigan Bean Shippers Association, Michigan Bean Commission and suppliers of chemicals, equipment and fertilizer.

Now is the time to take soil samples

1. USE SOIL MAP from your Farm Plan as a guide when obtaining samples
2. DIVIDE FARM INTO FIELDS FOR SAMPLING. Take from 15-20 samples to combine into one composite sample from every 5 to 10 acres. Areas that distinctly differ in crop growth, in the appearance of the soils such as light or dark colored or have had different past management (liming, manuring, fertilizing, or cropping), should be sampled separately.
3. USE PROPER SAMPLING TOOLS. Satisfactory samples can be obtained with an auger, spade, trowel or soil probe.
4. SAMPLE TO PLOW DEPTH except for pastures. Pasture sampled should be taken from the upper 2-4 inches. Areas that distinctly differ in crop growth should be sampled separately.
5. REMOVE SOIL RIBBON from center of slice if you use a spade. First dig a V-shaped hole to plow depth and remove a one-half inch thick slice of soil from one side of the hole. Then trim off from each slice of the spade all but a thin ribbon of soil down the center of the spade face. Place this in a clean bucket with other samples from the same area.
6. AIR DRY SAMPLE. Do not use heat. When sample is air dry, mix thoroughly. Then take out about a half-pint of the soil for testing.
7. TAKE SAMPLES TO County Agent's Office — 1003 S. Lansing St. Johns, Michigan. Have information needed for profits.

Michigan Bean Day

Lloyd B. Campbell District Conservationist assigned to the Clinton County Soil Conservation District
Michigan's poultry industry should rank much higher nationally than it does now, believes a Michigan State University Extension poultry specialist.

Dr. Bernard Marquez says the business potential here is as good as in California, Minnesota or Texas, which are considered poultry production leaders.

"Natural conditions here are little different than in Minnesota and Michigan has as geographically good, even better, market outlets," says Marquez. His outlook is part of the poultry sessions planned Tuesday of MSU's Farmers' Week, March 22-26. The day's format has concurrent sessions for egg producers, broilers and most of the turkeys and commercial rabbit producers. There is a special session on-farm, local store or farmers' market sales can be lucrative. Even on-farm, local store or farmers' market sales can be lucrative opportunities," Marquez says. Small producers not able to find a large commercial market could probably arrange contract production with larger processors or market outlets. "But local markets shouldn't be underestimated and elimination of the middleman makes the venture more profitable. Even on-farm, local store or farmers' market sales can be lucrative possibilities," Marquez says.

A bank of money per bird," Marquez says. He sees a beginning producer starting with a few hundred birds a year, before expanding the operation. "We're not trying to make it a sideline or hobby, part-time farming or a sideline or hobby, part-time farming operation, or joining a larger producer for a time, is possibly the better route to follow," he says.

"There is no doubt that the first few years will be a struggle but generally, a person successful in any other industry would find success in this type of operation. It simply takes a lot of common sense but this is the way our major operations begin," he adds.

There is plenty of guideline assistance available through MSU and the local county Extension offices. "A well run poultry operation need not be large to make money and I think the Michigan market offers a good potential to someone contemplating entering this segment of the agricultural community," Marquez says.

Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in Clinton County. This is quite obvious as you drive around the county and see fields of corn, wheat or other crops and notice the barns and silos which dot the landscape.

Clinton is in the top 10 counties of Michigan in the production of corn, wheat, soybeans, oats, dry edible beans, spearmint; and in numbers of dairy cows, hogs, all cattle and sheep.

According to the 1969 census, 78 percent of the county's land is in farms. With 27% of the land in wood lots, only Wayne County has less forested land than Clinton. There are many wood lots in the county-most of these are quite small. There are no large forest areas in the county.

In 1974 Clinton County was 6th in corn production in the State, 8th in wheat production, 7th in soybeans, 10th in oat production, 1st in milk production, 5th in number of dairy cattle, 5th in hog numbers. There is a large number of agricultural products are shipped from Clinton County. Among them are wheat, corn, soybeans and milk. The grains are shipped mainly to the New England area.

Agriculture is an asset to an area's economy. Agriculture is one of the most stable industries. Manufacturing, retailing, service or other type of industries may come and go, but agriculture is tied to the land and only when the land is used for other purposes will agriculture leave.
Prospects promising for improved corn yield through breeding says speaker at MSU

Prospects for genetically improved corn future yields and efficiency look good.

"The trend in yield improvement in the corn industry appears to be no different than it was in the previous 30 years," says Dr. William Brown, president, Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc.

Brown spoke at potential corn yields at Michigan State University's annual Seed, Weed and Fertilizer School, Dec. 2-4. About 300 elevator managers, seed, herbicide and fertilizer suppliers attended the course.

HE SAYS THAT recently compiled research gives no indication that a plateau or a decline in the rate of yield improvement has been reached. "It means that we should certainly expect to see continued progress in yield as well as in other traits in breeding in the foreseeable future," Brown says.

"When one examines the state of our knowledge relative to plant behavior in terms of genetics, physiology and biochemistry, it is readily apparent that we still have much to learn in each of these areas," he adds.

Energy shortages and potential dwindling supplies of synthetic nitrogen indicate the need for research that will improve corn efficiency and other important crop species.

"For example, the possibility of developing corn and other cereals with the ability to fix nitrogen is not only intriguing but one that could be of tremendous economic importance. And it is encouraging to note that considerable progress along these lines has already been made in Brazil," Brown says.

ANTHOTHER AREA is the potential improvement of corn.

Did you know?

An American farmer on one acre of land can raise enough potatoes for your family to have French fries one meal every day for more than 20 years. A fully grown apple tree will produce enough apples to make about 250 apple pies each year. It takes a standard apple tree six to ten years to begin fruiting.

American farmers grew so many peanuts that every person in the world could hold a large handful. About two billion pounds of peanuts are grown in this country each year. Half of these are made into peanut butter. American farmers grow half of all the corn grown in the entire world.

A dairy cow gives enough milk to furnish a family with a half gallon of milk every day. In order for a dairy cow to give so much milk, she must eat nearly 100 pounds of food and drink about a bathtub of water each day.
Insect of the year honors are going to a tiny wasp that may eventually save Michigan alfalfa growers thousands of dollars.

Called Microterus aethiops, it lays eggs inside the adult alfalfa weevil which, upon maturing, kills it. "We generally select the most destructive pest of the growing season. But this year we found one of positive benefit," says James K. Liebhold, Michigan State University Extension entomologist.

Left unchecked, the alfalfa weevil will consume the entire alfalfa field. It has been a serious field pest in the eastern U.S. and Michigan for many years.

EXTENSION entomologists believe aethiops has a big foothold in the lower peninsula and may reduce alfalfa weevil populations substantially in a few years. Field samples obtained this summer revealed aethiops larvae were developing in 30 percent of the adult alfalfa weevils throughout Michigan.

"This means there is no further need to subsidize the aethiops in the lower peninsula. Alalfa weevil population increases showed signs of tapering off for the first time. If this is correct, farmers will have greater choice in deciding whether to use pesticides or not," says Liebhold.

Earlier tests in New Jersey show a drop in spraying need of more than 80 percent where aethiops has been established.

"The research began at MSU's Gull Lake Experiment Station. Cooperative Extension agents obtained parasitized weevils to release in local areas. The local Extension agents have been a great help on this project because we could never have released the infested weevil or collected the samples needed to monitor aethiops results by ourselves," says Liebhold.

State consumers experiencing lowest beef prices in over a year

There were a number of factors combining to create the drop. They include a larger supply of first quality cattle, a drop in demand after the holidays, and a quick reaction by retailers to pass on the reduced costs (as a result of lower live cattle prices) in the form of many beef specials.

Certain steak cuts and Blade Chuck Ribs seem to have shown the most significant drop from the previous month.

According to the Beef Industry Commission spokesman there will probably be a little price change in the next month or two. However, he does suggest that consumers take advantage of the low beef prices new by stocking away a few steaks for the summer grilling season when the prices are likely to be back up to more normal levels.

Tips For A Better Future

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Trees are a very important part of man's environment. Their value for timber, wildlife, recreation, erosion control and beauty has long been recognized. Trees also screen dust from the air, suppress loud noises, dissipate unpleasant odors, produce atmospheric oxygen, reduce atmospheric pollutants and temper the climate. As you can see, trees are good news.

Trees cool surrounding air as a result of water loss through transpiration. In this process, moisture moves from the soil through the trees to the leaves, where it is evaporated into the air. It has been estimated the cooling provided by one large shade tree is equivalent to that produced by five or six air conditioning units.

Trees make good windbreaks. How effective they are depends on the tree density and wind velocity.

Spruce and pine trees are commonly planted for windbreakers in Michigan. Leaves of trees are very effective in intercepting dust particles and filtering them from the air. A deciduous tree, like beech, that is 50 to 60 years old has about 1,600 square yards of leaf surface to which dust particles adhere. Such a tree will intercept several pounds of dust throughout the summer. Evergreen trees are effective in removing dust from the air all year long.

Trees are desirable. They are nice to have around. If you have space around your home or a few acres, plant trees. I think there are many small acreages in the county where trees could be planted.

Here's where you can order trees at a very reasonable price: Clinton County Soil Conservation District, located at 100 South Ottawa Street, St. Johns - telephone 224-6151.

Lighting the farm well

Good lighting for livestock feeding or crime deterrent can be an inexpensive yet efficient investment.

"High pressure sodium lighting fixtures use little energy yet create over 100 lumens per watt compared to 50 lumens per watt output for mercury vapor lights. Incandescent lights have a lumen output of about 20 per watt," says Truman Surbrook, Michigan State University Extension agricultural engineer.

"For example, a dairy farmer might use just one sodium light on a 100-square-foot lot instead of two mercury lights, saving energy costs in the long run," says Surbrook.

SODIUM AND mercury lights should be used only if they are to be illuminated long periods of time. Turning them off and on drastically shortens their lifetime. In place of them, use incandescent bulbs.

Butter was farm's first dairy product

Butter was the main source of dairy income for many years, and it's said that excellent butter is one sign of a good herd of Colonial springhorses. This was true even though little was known of the necessity for sterilizing utensils, and no refrigeration was available but cold spring water and ice. These methods of preserving were inadequate in the summer, but butter was salted down in wooden barrels and kept sweet in the springhouse until winter when the price was better.

The farm wife of the day took competitive pride in the quality of the butter which she sold to year-round customers - the village doctor, lawyer, lumber or to the village store. Private customers paid 12 to 20 cents a pound for butter, while the storekeeper paid only 10 to 12 cents either in cash or barter.

Production for sale as fluid milk was limited to farms near cities and towns where delivery could be made daily. In cities like New York and Philadelphia, dairy farmers in the early 1800's would trudge the streets weighed down with a yoke carrying two large kegs of milk. "Here's the milk! Ye'll 'e'd call 'em to let their customers know they were coming. Some farmers drove around in covered carts, selling their fluid bounty for six to ten cents a quart.
Weed control recommendations

Corn
Good weed control in corn is an absolute for getting high yields. You have a good choice of herbicides that can do a good job for you depending on your crop rotation and weed problems.

1. Continuous corn. Quickgrass is usually not a problem if you have been using AAtrex. Focal or fall pentanec is usually the problem. Use 2 quarts Lasso plus 1 pound AAtrex pre-emerge.

2. Corn-Bean rotation. Use 2.5 quarts Lasso plus 1 pound AAtrex pre-emerge. Sutan plus 2 quarts Lasso pre-emergence.

Salinity tolerant than others in their landscape tolerance. Oaks are at least moderately tolerant. On the other hand, are very susceptible to damage by salt spray. Most shrubs are susceptible to salt injury, including most of the maples. Most red oak, beech and crabapples, Austiran pine are some of the best trees for areas where salt is usually high or Banvel. Use extreme caution when using Banvel.

Navy beans
For best results and season long weed control, a combination of the following post-emergent materials are recommended. 1. I%/4 pts. of Eptam or 3 pts. of Cobex plus 1 quart of Eptam or 3 quarts of Amiben. 2. 2 pts. of Tolban (1 quart) plus 3 pts. Amiben. 3. If nightshade is a problem, use preplant incorporated Amiben (3-4 quarts) with either 1%-2 pts. Cobex, Tolban or 2-1/4 pts. Treflan.

Soybeans
For best control of broadleaves and grasses a preplant incorporated treatment of Treflan or Cobex (1 pt.) plus Tolban (1 pt., 4 pts.) followed by an over-treatment of Amiben (4 pts.). Senor (4 lbs.), or Lorox (11 lbs.) are recommended. Senor will give some control of Jimson weed and cocklebur.

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LOROX (3 lbs.), or Maleran (4 lbs.) will do a good job. If velvet leaf or cocklebur is a problem use 1 lb. of Sencor.

A combination of the above with Lasso usually gives better crop tolerance than one chemical alone.

BASAGRAN can be used as a post-emergence spray for cocklebur, velvet leaf, and subgraz control.

For more information of Weed Control; See Michigan State University Weed Control Bulletin E-45.
A walk over your land can tell you things

Have you walked over your land in the past year? Have you evaluated its need for erosion control? Have you looked the drainage pattern of each field and checked for signs of erosion?

Perhaps you have already noticed that each year, the water spreads out at the end of a natural watercourse. If you haven't checked your land or haven't noticed erosion problems, it would be a good idea to review some of the causes and cures for erosion. Perhaps you feel you know the main problem areas on your farm and follow a good conservation plan. However, the land is always changing and new problems can arise by merely changing the rotation of farming a field in a different direction. Even the neighbor above or below you could clear some land or make a change above or below you could clear some land or make a change

You should be aware of the ever changing effect climate has upon the land and do those management practices that minimize erosion and control water flow.

Extension office lists herbicide cost averages

Rates are expressed as the herbicide would come from the container.

Final figure expresses the cost per acre.

**Corn**

Pre-Plant


Blades 1/4 + Lasso 2 qts. - $4.50 + $6.92 — $11.42.

Blades 1/4 + Lasso 2 qts. - $4.75 + $6.92 — $11.67.

Blades 1/4 + Lasso 2 qts. - $4.50 + $6.92 — $11.42.

- $4.75 + $6.92 — $11.67.

**SOYBEANS**

Preplant followed by Post-emergence


Treflan 1 pt. + Lorox 1 1/2 lbs. - $3.36 + $5.13 — $8.49.

Treflan 1 pt. + Lorox 1 1/2 lbs. - $3.36 + $5.13 — $8.49.


Post-emergence

Basagran 1/2 qt. - $13.98.

**FIELD BEANS**

Preplant

Eptam 1 1/2 pts. - $6.13.

Treflan 1 1/2 pts. - $5.99 — $5.99.

Cobex + Eptam 1.5 pts. — $14.17.

**HERBICIDES**

**PRE-PLANT**


- $3.38 + $6.51 — $9.89.


**POST-EMERGENCE**

- $3.38 + $6.51 — $9.89.


**SOYBEANS**

Preplant followed by Post-emergence


Treflan 1 pt. + Lorox 1 1/2 lbs. - $3.36 + $5.13 — $8.49.

Treflan 1 pt. + Lorox 1 1/2 lbs. - $3.36 + $5.13 — $8.49.


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Post-emergence

Basagran 1/2 qt. - $13.98.
When harvest time arrives, safety is even more important

By Bill Lasher
Extension Agent

Staying alive is a good idea and it takes a little thought and judgment and luck to do a good job of staying alive.

Safety should be on your mind when operating farm equipment, especially harvesting equipment, because harvesting equipment — choppers, combines or corn pickers all have a way of getting the crop into the machine. And the machine doesn’t know or care if its corn or soybeans or you that goes into it.

It will do its job of chopping stalks or separating the grain from the chaff. If you get too closely involved with one of these machines, you could get chopped or separated just as the crop would be. The machine may not notice you coming through it, but you’ll be the one to use it.

So when running farm machinery — read the operator’s manual and use it. Always keep the guard in place, stop the machine before getting off and make adjustments, wear tight fitting clothing that won’t get caught in the machine.

In living a long life, don’t trust luck too often, remember to look both ways when crossing the street and to operate harvesting machinery in a safe manner.

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Pickling corn—preventing spoilage with organic acid

Pickling corn, or treating it with an organic acid to prevent spoilage, is an alternative to drying or putting high-moisture corn in a silo. Shelled corn with 15 to 36% moisture can be preserved by addition of proprionic acid or a mixture of proprionic and acetic acids. Experiments in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Canada and other locations have shown mold growth was completely inhibited in corn treated this way. The corn was placed in piles on the floor protected only top and bottom with sheets of plastic, or in sealed bins. Corn preserved with an organic acid can only be used for livestock feed. It cannot be used on grain intended for human consumption. Also, the acid inhibits germination, so should not be used on seed grain.

The amount of material to use depends on the moisture content of the grain. The acid must coat all sides of the grain to be effective. There are several makes of applicators available which can apply the material to all sides of the material effectively. Acid treated corn must be protected from the elements. If snow or rain gets on the corn, the grain moisture will be too high for the amount of acid used or the acid will be washed off and the corn will mold. The materials used are corrosive, so metal bins need to be protected by covering with plastic or a special paint. Concrete may be pitted, so plastic should be used on concrete floors. Wooden bins are not affected by the organic acids.

It looks to me that organic acid treatment of high-moisture corn (pickling corn) is another way to prevent spoilage. It may be considered as an alternative to drying, or ensiling as high-moisture corn. Also, where silo storage conditions are poor, the use of organic acid treatment may be good insurance for preserving high-moisture corn.
Gadget keeps pickles from blowing tops

The possibility of lower commodity prices, particularly corn and beans, should dampen land price increases. "If the U.S. corn crop were to average 96 bushels per acre — a higher yield than likely but well within the realm of possibility — corn prices would be under substantial pressure," Black says.

"Farm operating costs are expected to rise over the next five years but crop prices, on the average, will be under downward pressure. Profits that might be capitalized into higher land prices will be squeezed," Black says.

"The squeeze, however, may not force land prices to drop significantly. Substantial recent machinery purchases and generally high levels of liquidity will tend to cause farmers to pay relatively high prices for small contiguous tracts of land. "There is justification for developing 'sliding' cash rent schemes to reduce risk. If crop prices rise, the landowner receives a larger share; but the owner must be willing to take a smaller share if the bottom drops out of the market," Black says.

"The higher base from which the market is now operating and contributing price-risk factors, suggest moderate land price growth, but even at a three percent rate, the increase in value would be one-third by 1985," Black says.

Expectations of significant capital gains are required to justify current high prices and the ability to meet equity and repayment requirements will determine who will be buying land.

A team of Michigan State University scientists has developed a simple gadget that keeps pickles from blowing up like balloons during preprocessing storage. The problem is caused by carbon dioxide gas dissolved in the pickling brines, according to microbiologist Ralph N. Costilow and food scientist Clifford L. Bedford. It invades the pickles, returns to gas form and destroys their internal structure. The CO2 is formed by natural fermentation that occurs when the pickles are first put into brine solutions for storage.

"This problem has been the subject of basic research by many scientists throughout the world for at least 30 years," said Dr. Costilow. "Without this background we probably couldn't have made this breakthrough even though it is quite simple in both concept and design."

The device that Costilow and Bedford developed, uses insert nitrogen gas to purge CO2 from the brine and, at the same time, circulates the liquid to maintain uniform low levels of dissolved carbon dioxide. As the nitrogen bubbles through the brine, the dissolved CO2 returns to gaseous form and then escape at the surface of large pickling tanks.

"This device means an end to a problem that has influenced prices at both the grocery counter and the farm," said Costilow. Under the current brine storage system CO2 blown pickles are so common that 60 percent of the large pickles for

(Concluded on page 17)
Siphoning gasoline may be deadly

Siphoning gasoline from a tank or vehicle may save you the extra time it takes to go to the gas station - permanently.

"It is an extremely hazardous practice that many people do not understand. Too often a person is found dead beside his automobile with the siphon still spraying gasoline on the ground," says Howard J. Doss, Michigan State University Extension safety specialist.

Medical studies show that gasoline and other petroleum distillates, including kerosene and lighter fluid, can cause serious consequences when inhaled or injected. A great danger is potential harm to lungs. When gasoline is taken into the mouth, some of the vapors enter the lungs where it causes immediate irritation and tissue damage. The destruction of this tissue, in turn, causes the lungs to fill with fluid, causing pneumonitis. "Gasoline also enters the bloodstream and can slow breathing and heart function. All these reactions may take only a few seconds and death may result in a matter of minutes," Doss says.

Keep gasoline and other petroleum distillates in originally labeled containers, out of the reach of children, Doss suggests, and he adds three other precautions:

- Never attempt to siphon gasoline or any other petroleum distillate by mouth.
- If you must siphon, buy a mechanical siphon at the hardware store. The few dollars spent could save your life.
- Be extremely careful when handling gasoline in cold weather. Just spilling gasoline on your skin can cause frostbite or burns, because the gasoline evaporates rapidly, causing the skin temperature to super cool.

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Siprophoning gasoline from a tank or vehicle may save you the extra time it takes to go to the gas station — permanently.

"It is an extremely hazardous practice that many people do not understand. Too often a person is found dead beside his automobile with the siphon still spraying gasoline on the ground," says Howard J. Doss, Michigan State University Extension safety specialist.

Medical studies show that gasoline and other petroleum distillates, including kerosene and lighter fluid, can cause serious consequences when inhaled or injected. A great danger is potential harm to lungs. When gasoline is taken into the mouth, some of the vapors enter the lungs where it causes immediate irritation and tissue damage. The destruction of this tissue, in turn, causes the lungs to fill with fluid, causing pneumonitis. "Gasoline also enters the bloodstream and can slow breathing and heart function. All these reactions may take only a few seconds and death may result in a matter of minutes," Doss says.

Keep gasoline and other petroleum distillates in originally labeled containers, out of the reach of children, Doss suggests, and he adds three other precautions:

- Never attempt to siphon gasoline or any other petroleum distillate by mouth.
- If you must siphon, buy a mechanical siphon at the hardware store. The few dollars spent could save your life.
- Be extremely careful when handling gasoline in cold weather. Just spilling gasoline on your skin can cause frostbite or burns, because the gasoline evaporates rapidly, causing the skin temperature to super cool.
USD A implements revised beef grade standards, continues studies

Revised U.S. grade standards for carcass beef, designed to improve the accuracy for measuring eating quality and identifying yield of saleable beef, went into effect Feb. 23, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Officials of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) said although the changes are not drastic, they will add precision and efficiency to beef production and marketing.

Immediate effects of the changes on consumers will be threefold, according to AMS officials. There will be slightly leaner beef in the Prime and Choice grades, a redesigned and more restrictive Good grade, and a more uniform eating quality of beef in the Good and Choice grades.

AMS officials cited the most significant effect, however, as a long range one—a possible reduction in the amount of excess fat on high quality beef. This could result from the requirement that all federally graded beef be graded for either quality or yield or both.

The use of both quality and yield grades will provide a more precise measurement of factors that affect the carcass value. This could provide the guidance and financial incentive needed to encourage increased production of meat-type cattle. Such high-value cattle have thickly muscled carcasses with high quality lean and a minimum of excess fat.

AMS officials said the revised grade standards will be under close surveillance to determine their use and effectiveness. Development and improvement of grade standards is a continuing function that involves USDA's evaluation of information from its own research and that of State experiment stations and private industry. New studies also are initiated as specific needs for information are identified. One study planned after the revised standards have become fully established will be to determine their economic effects under market conditions.

The changes were previously scheduled to become effective in April 1975, but were postponed by a series of court actions.

There are three corn rootworm types

The corn rootworm comes in three types: the Northern, Western, and Southern. The Northern is by far the most common in Michigan and in the country, although the Western has been found in the southwest corner of the county.

The corn rootworm has two bad habits. First, as a larva, he eats the roots of the corn plants, causing lodging and weakened plants, due to the loss of roots. Second, as an adult, he feeds on the silks of the ear, if he chews them off early enough in the season, the ear will have reduced seed set.

By far, the lodging caused by the larva eating the roots is the worst of the bad habits. In most years he will emerge from the soil as an adult late enough in the year that nearly all the seed is set.

The lodging starts right at ground level, not part way up as is the case with stalk rot, and the stalks are usually curved (goose-necked) near their bases. This lodging, starting at the soil surface, greatly interferes with or prevents mechanical harvesting of the corn.

The rootworm has only one generation a year. It lays its eggs in the fall in the cornfield and they overwinter as eggs.

(Concluded on page 24)
State chairman explains ASC committee system

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, commonly referred to as ASCS, is the agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) which carries out various action programs in the general field of farm price support, production adjustment, and conservation assistance, according to Robert Zeeb, Chairman of the Michigan State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee. The entire program is operated by a committee system. There are three committees in the system— a State, county, and community committee. The three, farmer-members of the ASC State Committee are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture on January 1 of each year from different, geographical areas representing major types of farming in the State. Each farmer on the State Committee must have had practical experience as a farm operator and must have a substantial interest in farming at the time he is nominated. The State Director of Cooperative Extension Service is, by law, designated as an ex-officio member of the State Committee.

The County Committee consists of three persons, who are elected annually by farmers. Zeeb stated, and serve a 12-month period beginning January 1 and ending December 31. These county ASCS offices located in 83 counties in Michigan. Zeeb noted that the ASC farmer-Committee system is unique. No other group of citizens has so direct a voice in running Government programs. The primary concern of ASCS is to help conserve agricultural resources and to assist in the stabilization of supplies and prices. Since its inception in 1933, ASCS has moved from an era of great oversupply to one of short supply and increased demand for agricultural products all over the world, Zeeb said. The primary concern of ASCS and the entire Department of Agriculture is to insure an adequate supply of food at a fair and reasonable price to both producer and consumer. With today’s short world food supply and the great increase in the cost of agricultural production, the problems and burdens of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Office are more important and greater than they have ever been—to both consumer and producer.

Plants contribute to society

"Plants are what you make of them," stated Dr. H. John Carew, chairman of the horticulture department at Michigan State University. During a recent speech to students in his classes on growing plants and flowers, Carew described the many ways growing plants contribute to society. He said plants can be a teaching aid in a classroom for identification, plant care and propagation.

"Plants are a food source for human and animals. Landscape and natural plants offer food and shelter to many types of wildlife which, in turn, give viewing enjoyment to humans," Carew stated that plants is a constant search for ways in which to serve the farm community better, much of the routine work in ASCS is being automated. Also, Agricultural Service Centers are being formed throughout the United States. Agricultural Service Centers are simply a collocation of all USDA agencies possible, in one building, in one location, so that farmers may have one-stop, agricultural service.

The only reason for existence of ASCS is to help conserve agricultural resources and to assist in the stabilization of supplies and prices. Since its inception in 1933, ASCS has moved from an era of great oversupply to one of short supply and increased demand for agricultural products all over the world, Zeeb said. The primary concern of ASCS and the entire Department of Agriculture is to insure an adequate supply of food at a fair and reasonable price to both producer and consumer. With today’s short world food supply and the great increase in the cost of agricultural production, the problems and burdens of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Office are more important and greater than they have ever been—to both consumer and producer.

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A look into the future

By Patrice Hornak
News Feature Writer

What will agriculture be like in Clinton County during the next ten years? This writer recently interviewed two men who work very closely with area farmers: Jim Pelham, County Extension Director, and Bill Lasher, Agricultural Agent.

"HOW WILL SIZES OF FARMS CHANGE?"

Both men agree the successful, larger farms will continue to grow and become more common. Pelham believes we will continue to have a considerable number of small farms, but adds that many of his co-workers in other counties disagree.

His reasoning for this is the proximity to Lansing. Rural residents in this county have several employment options. The prospect of earning a living in the city and living in the country has a lot of appeal. "A small farm is a good place to live and raise a family," he supported.

If the large farms are to increase in size and the small ones are to very nearly hold their own, where are the acres going to come from? Pelham and Lasher agree the next five years may be tough on middle-sized operations. These with 120 to 240 acres, possibly with small milking herds or other livestock. Some of these are doing pretty well right now with middle-aged operators, who are well established and have relatively low debt.

"One man dairy farms have become extremely unpopular in recent years. "Farmers continue to be some of the hardest working people in the world, but they know other people get occasional weekends off and take regular vacations, and they desire the same," quipped Pelham. Additional employees mean no one has to work seven days a week the year around.

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Where the bind comes is when a young owner takes over and begins paying today's inflated prices for everything he uses, from land to machinery. In fact, even the present operators may find themselves under pressure when they have to replace worn out machinery at prices more than fifty percent higher than they were two years ago.

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Lasher sees more specialized and consolidation ahead. "Farmers won't have to acres here and 80 acres there," he said. "Instead, the acreage will be combined into a larger number of acres."

"Running up and down the road with heavy equipment is costly even when mounted on rubber tires."

Another factor expected to play an important part in Clinton County farming during the next 10 years is land use planning.

Clinton has led the way among outstate Michigan counties in both planning and zoning from the very beginning. To top that off, one of the nation's landmark cases involving farms and a farm odor problem was held right here in the county.

In that instance, a swine producer was trying to expand his business, but the outcome was shady enough no farmer feels safe on the same land that previously.

This writer is in jeopardy in building new animal facilities near homes, but it is pretty well established what has to be done about everything possible to control odors, but it may be forced to cease and desist upon complaint of new neighbors, even though he was there first.

This makes odor and pollution control of great importance in the design and location of buildings and facilities for keeping livestock. A similar problem could develop, if a spray drift damaged a neighbor's lawn, flowers or shrubs.

Tomorrow's farmer will be a careful person, very knowledgeable and cognizant and considerate of his neighbor's rights and wishes.

"HOW PROFITABLE WILL AGRICULTURE BE IN THE FUTURE?"

Both men agree the long-term outlook is great, but there will be periodic ups and downs that will be tough on the under-financed or under-equipped.

Right now, grain and bean prices are way too low, without too much improvement expected for this year's crop. Pork prices have been good, but that is largely because there aren't many pigs to sell.

It looks as though beef is definitely on the upgrade after nearly 3 years of disastrous prices and the dairymen who have suffered their losses in the past have a lot to be encouraged about.

What's the picture for part-time operations? There have to be big differences in commodities to be farmed. "Looks as though there are some real good possibilities for expanding in specialized areas, such as truck garden, small fruits and nursery," says Lasher.

The picture for small beef operations is about the same, according to Lasher. Neither real good or real bad.

"Pork production has traditionally been fairly profitable on a small scale," says Pelham, "but with dairy it's a different story. It's been years now a farmer would make a good living on a herd of less than 30, but I don't look as though it will be long before 100 will be a minimum. That stainless steel equipment to keep milk clean and pure comes expensive!"

All farmers are going to have to be more energy conscious, too. Lasher was enthusiastic in describing the success of a number of small farmers raising crops without plowing the land.

This new practice has been made possible largely by new effective herbicides to control weeds. He says this has had its greatest impact on corn, but predicts this technology will develop to make it practical on other crops.

Pelham believes oxygen excluding or sealed in will largely replace artificial drying and conventional bins for feed grain.

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(Concluded on page 21C)
Farm women say lives are rewarding, exciting and liberated

By Patrice Hornak
News Feature Writer

The role of women has changed considerably over the past few years, and it continues to change. But, has the women's rights movement affected women on the farm?

In the course of answering this question, this reporter talked with several Clinton County women who live on farms. The women were asked about their duties, related to their farms, their responsibilities in the home and their opinions of life on a farm today.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As women in the cities gather to protest unfair labor practices based on discrimination in their jobs, women in the farming communities are becoming more and more involved with their business of farming without a bit of publicity. Women on the farm and in the cities are becoming more and more involved with their duties, related to their work in the home and their jobs. The responsibilities of the farm wife differ from farm to farm, depending upon the type of farm, the size of the farm operation and the age of the farm wife.

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"YOU HAVE TO HAVE GOOD RECORDS," stressed Mrs. Marie Woodham of St. Johns. "I keep the books for the $100,000 farm operations and are involved in making important decisions with their husbands concerning their business needs.

Has the women's liberation movement affected the farm wife? Maybe it has but farm wives don't recognize it as a liberation movement—they are only doing their part to keep the farm running and their husbands and families happy. And, as far as the women are concerned, the important fact is that farm women are keeping themselves happy, as all Clinton County farm wives admitted.

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FARMER'S WIVES

(Concluded from page 21C)

Karen Schneider.

THE quiet, peaceful hard-working life of a farmer varies from day to day. During the summer months, the days are long and filled with hard work. During the winter months, days are spent catching up and preparing for the next growing season.

Winter also offers a time to become active in church and social groups, and all of the women said they were active in their church, Farm Bureau and 4-H.

Mrs. Marie Woodham presents her "Many Hats of a Farmer's Wife" program to the St. Johns Lions Club.

The Schneider and Nash children are younger and cannot operate the big machinery on the farm as yet. The Nash children, Kevin age 9, Kimberly age 3 and Amanda age 1, still have a while to wait, but the Schneider's are learning about farm life.

Karen Schneider says the farm has many advantages for children: they are exposed to many animals and they understand how a calf is born and they have a woods to walk to when they wish.

Working with your husband is another advantage which the farm wives cited during their interviews. Knowing that they are working together to make a living, helping each other make important decisions and being more involved with each other during the day were all important reasons for living on a farm.

"Not a day goes by when there isn't something that has to be done or something which we would like to do on the farm which my husband and I discuss," said Karen Schneider.

A farmer's wife must be able to do everything and know when to ask for help. The Schneider and Nash children are younger and cannot operate the big machinery on the farm as yet. The Nash children, Kevin age 9, Kimberly age 3 and Amanda age 1, still have a while to wait, but the Schneider's are learning about farm life.

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Sod seeding trefoil and alfalfa

Stock producers having problem grass pastures or hayfields low in productivity can double, even triple yields. "Michigan has over two million acres within this category, a considerable portion of which is fencel and suitable for pasture of livestock," says Dr. M.B. Tesar, Michigan State University crops research specialist.

He recommends heavy spring grazing followed by plowing or field cultivation in late May or June, till every week or so, for days to control quackgrass and other grasses. Then seed with birdsfoot trefoil or alfalfa. Use mixtures of a grass(es') on well-drained soil or birdsfoot trefoil on wetter sites.

"Based on 10 years of experience by farmers trying this method, it is the first choice in reopening a pasture legume and grasses where plowing or field cultivation will not result in excessive erosion," Tesar says.

Seed birdsfoot trefoil in herbicide-treated sod without plowing is an alternative which has given satisfactory results in MSU trials during 1973, 1974, and 1975. This alternative is attractive where the land may be too steep for tillage.

Tesar says, "Birdsfoot trefoil is tolerant of acid soils and will grow well at pH levels as low as 5.0, but yields more at higher pH levels. Incorporating a legume into a grass sod increases yields and protein content of the pasture and gives more production during the drier part of the summer. The legume also supplies "free" nitrogen from the air, Tesar says.

Seed alfalfa in sod seeded soil or with billy not recommended since many soils are acid and need lime to increase the soil pH to 6.0 or above for alfalfa to perform well. However, if the pH is above 6.0, these sites which are generally hilly, need seeding of alfalfa as a satisfactor method of improving forage productivity without addition of lime.

Birdsfoot trefoil is Michigan's longest-lived legume, it thrives best on soils too poorly drained for alfalfa, but will yield well on rolling soils which are not drouthy. It can be established successfully in sod composed primarily of Kentucky bluegrass, orchardgrass, bromegrass, or timothy if the grass competition is reduced during establishment.

The following steps should be followed to help insure a good stand of birdsfoot trefoil or alfalfa by sod seeding in grass:

**SITE SELECTION**

Select a sod primarily of Kentucky bluegrass, timothy, bromegrass, orchardgrass, or grasses which can be subduced by the herbicide paraquat. The grass will recover and provide good forage. Select a moist site with a loose, crumbly or clay soil. Sandy, light soils are likely to be drouthy and will probably result in poor stands. Spring establishment of alfalfa has been satisfactory on coarse-textured soils such as sandy loams and even loamy sands. Summer establishment is more hazardous because of drouthy conditions.

**SOIL TEST**

Determine phosphorus and potassium needs by taking representative soil samples. Soil samples should be sent to the soil testing laboratory of Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.

**GRAZE CLOSELY**

Grazing before or immediately after seeding will reduce grass vigor and competition and improve the stand of trefoil. Fall grazing prior to spring seeding is recommended.

**APPLY 2,4-D**

One pound, 2,4-D active ingredient per acre should be applied to the field before seeding to kill most broadleafed weeds, particularly dandelion. If 2,4-D is not used, the stand may be crowded out by the perennial broadleafed weeds.

**SPRAY WITH PARAQUAT**

Paraquat is the only herbicide presently available, and adequately tested, and cleared for selective use on legume crops. It will suppress all grasses, except quackgrass, and is adequate for seeding of trefoil. Do not seed if dense stand of quackgrass. Spray immediately after seeding on the sod (one-half pound active ingredient per acre) prior to seeding or during seeding. Use a surfactant like X-77, to insure good coverage of the foliage. Paraquat will not injure the dormant seed.

**SEED EARLY**

Seed in April or early May, as early as possible, to get the best yields. "B Unternehmen trefoil and alfalfa in early spring means a nutritive advantage to the livestock during the critical period of spring demand," says Dr. Tesar.

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SOD SEEDING

(Concluded from page 23C)

regular fertilizer-grain drill with legume seed box will insure good seed placement. The seed tubes of the legume seeder attachment should be adjusted so the seed falls into the fertilizer shoe beside the disc. The tension on the disc should be adjusted to place the seed and fertilizer about ¼ inch deep. The soil should be moist enough to make a slit ½ inch deep in the soil. A cultivator passed behind the drill will help insure coverage of the seed in the ¼-inch-deep slit.

Satisfactory results have also been obtained on a moist, poorly-drained soil by broadcasting trefol seed and fertilizer in early April on top of the herbicide-treated sod. A commercial drill adapted for seeding in summer, a cultivator must be used after seeding. Drills such as the Zip cultipacker must be used after the herbicide-treated sod.

- Fertilizer in early April on top of inch-deep slits.
- The soil should be moist enough adjusted to place the seed and seed tubes of the legume seeder specifically designed for seeding. Drills such as the Zip cultipacker must be used after the herbicide-treated sod.
- Fertilize the established stand annually with phosphorus and/or potassium according to Extension Bulletin E-550. About 100 pounds of 0-14-42 per acre every other year for trefol is adequate on most soils. Alfalfa should be topdressed annually with about 300 pounds 0-14-42 per acre plus boron on coarse-textured soils.

Rotational grazing will help establish and maintain a good trefol stand. Rotational grazing is absolutely necessary to maintain alfalfa.

THREE CORN ROOTWORM TYPES

(Concluded from page 18)

The other way is to use chemicals at planting time or before. These insecticides must be incorporated into the soil. Planter box treatments do not work to control the rootworm. Remember, the insecticides used are poisonous and care must be taken to handle, store, and apply them. For more information and recommended insecticides and rates, get the Extension bulletin, “The Corn Rootworm,” free from our office, 1003 S. Oakland, St. Johns.

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PH. 592-3472
Michigan farmers should have little trouble obtaining most fertilizers next year.

"All supplies are at high inventory levels and we foresee no problem areas - enough available freight cars to ship materials and natural gas availability for all nitrogen production," says Edwin M. Wheeler, president, The Fertilizer Institute, Washington, D.C.

Wheeler made his comments at Michigan State University's annual Seed, Weed and Fertilizer School, Dec. 3-4. About 300 elevator managers, seed, herbicide and fertilizer suppliers attended the course.

CURRENT ESTIMATES are that natural gas curtailments to ammonia producers are expected to be equivalent to 670,000 tons of anhydrous ammonia this winter or 540,000 tons of nitrogen.

If we have a severe winter, the curtailment of natural gas might force us to the industry may be higher, Wheeler says. Other influencing factors are demand for manufacture of synthetics and availability of supplies from the European market.

There should be no problem obtaining phosphate fertilizers. By the end of the year, production capacity should be 8.8 million tons, which is 8 percent more than the capacity available in January 1975.

But Wheeler warned suppliers not to wait until next spring to obtain shipments. "Right now our ports are clogged with grain shipments which are tying up freight cars. Place your orders soon. Your bins are probably empty now and you're going to have to take a chance on price. You may have the lowest prices, but you may not have fertilizer to sell," he says.

U.S. CAPACITY to produce potash is about 4.6 million tons a year, which is about 2 million tons below estimated use. Current inventories are high and imports, primarily from Canada, should meet U.S. needs for the next year or so.

But Wheeler warns about current Canadian government attitudes toward regulating the potash industry. "It has very frightening implications for us in the long run," he says, pointing out that if U.S. sources are tied up, can curtail or stop shipments to the U.S. at will.

He advises that local retail fertilizer prices should be kept within reasonable levels. "We must not forget that it is the farmer who is the customer. We lost sight of that last spring and went on a rally that was going to be when we allowed the law of gravity to set price," Wheeler says.

Sales last year dropped 10 percent, which was the first time since records have been kept. Overseas markets dropped almost at the same time as in the U.S.

"IT DOESN'T MATTER whether it is the farmer in Michigan or India, they all think alike - they know how far they are going to go as their input costs go up. We didn't expect they would back off from the market like they did," Wheeler says.

He believes Michigan farmers should have an excellent year in 1976 if the slowly rallying U.S. economy gathers speed. "U.S. food needs and demands coupled with an overgrowing dependence of overseas nations on our country for basic agricultural outputs signal full farm production - all profitable levels for farmers," Wheeler says.

Fertilizer values will move with crop prices. Fertilizer prices in 1975 will remain sensitive to crop price expectations. It's doubtful that this fall will substantially top the historical peaks we've seen in the last three years if harvest prices weaken.

"In the long run, the conventional wisdom that land prices will follow a continued inflationary trend but not necessarily at the 5 to 5 percent from 1962 to 1972," says Dr. Roy Black, Michigan State University agricultural economist.

Major factors affecting agricultural land prices are: "real" capacity expectations, interest rates, capital gains expectations, down payment conditions and liquidity of prospective buyers.

Another influence is the demand for agricultural land to be used for non-agricultural purposes. Its price is affected like other asset prices by expectations about the general rate of inflation in the economy, Black says.
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**Crop disaster programs available in 1976**

The USDA's crop disaster program will again be available in 1976. This program provides financial assistance to farmers who suffer crop losses or are prevented from planting crops due to natural disasters. Aid will be available through county ASCS offices. This notice was released by Dean Diehl, State Executive Director of the Michigan State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office.

Diehl stated that producers with wheat and feed grain allotments are eligible. To qualify, a farmer must be prevented from planting an acreage of crops equal to his allotment or suffer about a 40 percent loss in the normal production of his allotment acreage.

Wheat disasters in the major wheat states are currently getting much national publicity. However, Diehl emphasized, any Michigan farmer who may suffer a loss in his wheat production due to winterkill, flooding or other natural causes should be aware of the fact he may be eligible for disaster assistance. Anyone who suffers a loss must file a claim with the local county ASCS office prior to destroying the crop or devoting the land to any other use.

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**No-till planters**

There is quite a bit of interest in no-till planters this year, especially with the high cost of fuel. There are a number of people in Clinton County who have no-till planters and they like them very well.

No-till works very well on the lighter soils, especially rolling ground. The main disadvantage on heavy clay soils is the longer time it takes the soil to warm up and dry out without some type of tillage. With the clay or clay loam soils, chisel plowing in the fall and using a field cultivator in the spring to level the field, followed by the no-till planter works well.

Points most well liked about the no-till planter are the way the large fluted coulter prepares the seed bed and the way the planter boxes ride smooth and even giving accurate seed placement.

If the ground is dry and crusty on top, the fluted coulter will bring up moist soil from 4 to 6 inches deep to mix in the seed bed. By the same token, if the soil is a bit too wet, the coulter will bring up mud.

No matter how rough the field or—how large the seed clumps, this large fluted coulter will prepare a good seed bed of proper sized soil particles; and, because of this, the seed boxes ride level and place the seed more accurately. The ability for the seed boxes to ride smooth, even though the planter pitch accuracies, is well liked.

Using no-till equipment takes as much, if not more management than using any other type of planter.

In summary, no-till planters are used and liked by those who have them. Some tillage is still thought to be necessary with this type of planter on the heavier soils; however, many of the tillage operations are eliminated.
Government influence is hurting Michigan farm operations, says expert

"Michigan's farm industry is becoming more and more like a public utility which is poorly regulated by state agencies," said a Michigan State University labor and industrial relations specialist, speaking at the Great Lakes Vegetable Convention held in Lansing. "It seems to me that farmers and their friends have got to educate the legislators and the state regulatory agencies that farming is not like General Motors," says Dr. Daniel H. Kruger.

"Management problems at GM are entirely different from those of farmers and farmers have to contend with uncontrollable factors of weather and natural disasters. They had more than their share last year," he said.

"WE HAVE got to get over the concept that it is possible to operate a farm like a public utility and expect to feed the people of Michigan, the people of our country and people throughout the world," he adds.

In 1963, there were 61,000 farms in Michigan but by 1976, less than 28,000. Cultivated acreage dropped from 14 million acres in 1964 to about 12 million in 1976. Hired farm labor declined from about 93,000 in 1970. Hired farm workers were earning $1.7 billion in 1974, a trend which will continue, according to Kruger.

"Total cash receipts for farming have increased since 1964, which was $1.7 billion, but farm income continues to decline. It is not profitable for a farmer," Kruger said.

A major force helping influence agriculture is "Agriculture is not like General Motors," says Dr. Daniel H. Kruger.

"There are high costs of fertilizer, energy, double digit inflation and high wage costs. One explanation for high wage costs is the influence of the automobile industry in which the highest wages in the country are paid. Their spill-over effect influences agriculture wages. The farmer has to cope with higher wages which are more difficult to afford in the face of his market returns and other costs," Kruger says.

"When we talk about these laws, we must understand that Michigan is not an island," Kruger says.

"A third factor has been the influence of the automobile industry in which the highest wages in the country are paid. Their spill-over effect influences agriculture wages. The farmer has to cope with higher wages which are more difficult to afford in the face of his market returns and other costs," Kruger says.

A fourth factor influencing farm production is special interest groups. "I want farm workers to have all the rights that other Americans have. I want workers to be protected like workers in nonagricultural employment. But farmers and growers are being sued more frequently. They are being sued for the smallest, most trivial matters without resorting to courts," he says.

The numbers of unemployed in Michigan will remain higher for the rest of this decade and into the 1980s. "In concert with agriculture, industry, businesses, the unions and special interest groups, we have to open up all the opportunities for those unemployed and those entering the job market. But don't expect agriculture to do it alone and survive," Kruger says.

"We have to educate the legislators and ourselves to the tremendous problem of job creation in this state. We have to sort out where the employment possibilities lie in industry, agriculture, tourism and in the services. Each sector must be analyzed separately and appropriate steps taken to create a climate conducive to job growth," Kruger concludes.

"So we are in the process of substituting some of these services that are now provided to farm operators without resorting to courts," he said.

"A second factor has been the influence of the automobile industry in which the highest wages in the country are paid. Their spill-over effect influences agriculture wages. The farmer has to cope with higher wages which are more difficult to afford in the face of his market returns and other costs," Kruger says.

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Farmers say they are happy with work

A poll conducted by International Harvester's "Farm Forum" Magazine indicated that, despite government interference and the uncertainty of their income, farmers are satisfied with their accomplishments and enjoy the freedom of being their own boss.

The survey centered around farmers' attitudes toward agriculture, and the future of young people in farming. The final report is based on the responses of 1,000 farmers from across the U.S.

IN RESPONSE to the question, "What do you like best about farming?" three farmers in ten cited a sense of accomplishment, and 25% like the freedom of being their own boss. Only 6% of those polled felt their income was the best part of farming.

Small income 4%
Lack of boss 4%
High prices of inputs (land, fertilizer, etc.) 8%
When asked what they disliked most about agriculture, 47% of the respondents cited the uncertainty of prices received for farm products sold. Government interference ranked second, with responses from 30% of the farmers. Only 13% found hard work most objectionable.

What's the number one thing you dislike about farming?
Long hours 3%
Dirt work 1%
Dirty jobs 2%
Bad weather 8%
Lack of change 1%
Uncertainty of prices received for farm products sold 47%
Large investment required (land, equipment, buildings, etc.) 3%
Government interference 24%

What are the major concerns in the next few years? Almost half (48%) of those polled said that skyrocketing operating costs will put the farmer in an even more serious cost-price squeeze. Another major concern, especially for those in the 30-59 age group, was government manipulation of markets.

OTHER MAJOR concerns included the government trying to squeeze small farmers out of business and government regulations threatening the feasibility of farming. Only 6% cited high interest rates as a major problem.

Only two farmers out of ten felt that a son or daughter is obligated to take over a farm to keep it in the family. Responses to this question varied widely with the age of the respondents: about 30% of those under 30 and over 60 felt that children should take over the farm, while those aged 30-59 tended to disagree. Almost half (49%) of the farmers responding believed that their children would be better income opportunities if they left the farm and entered non-agricultural employment. Only the younger farmers (those under 30) felt that there are better income opportunities on the farm.

The high costs of farming were reflected in the fact that only 4% of the respondents felt it was easy for a young person to get started in farming today. Although only 6% said it was impossible, there was general agreement that farming was extremely difficult, requiring great sacrifice, and often necessitating help from relatives. Ten percent of those with a grade school education felt it was impossible, while only 1% of those who attended college called it impossible.

What are the major challenges and problems for farmers in the next few years? Almost half (48%) of those polled said that skyrocketing operating costs will put the farmer in an even more serious cost-price squeeze. Another major concern, especially for those in the 30-59 age group, was government manipulation of markets.

OTHER MAJOR concerns included the government trying to squeeze small farmers out of business and government regulations threatening the feasibility of farming. Only 6% cited high interest rates as a major problem.

Yet, despite the problems, the majority of the farmers (59%) believed that farming has a bright future. And, perhaps more encouraging, especially for consumers, two-thirds of those under 30 felt optimistic about the future of farming.

Do you think there is an obligation for a son or daughter to take over the farm to keep it in the family?
Yes 21%
No 78%
No response 1%
No-till guidelines

No-till, in some areas, is being considered one of the most important changes in American agriculture since introduction of hybrid seed corn in the early 1920s.

"It requires a good understanding of soil conditions, weed problems and chemical application techniques, but management practices are essential because this system demands more of the corn plant," says Dr. Lyna S. Robertson, Michigan State University crop and soil specialist, who used a tractor and planter for single operation planting. This research was the first of its kind in the U.S.

No-till production is basically planting corn on unplowed soil and using herbicides to control weeds. It is also called soil planting, no-plow, slit-tillage, chemical tillage and conservation tillage.

No-till is one of the most effective management practices developed for controlling wind and water erosion in common crop production. This means better conservation, improved water quality, less sediment and improved environment.

The best days for planting corn in spring can be used exclusively for planting rather than for plowing and fitting. Slower ground speeds are required, as few acres are planted per hour than when using a planter of similar size on conventionally prepared seedbeds.

Less than ideal conditions have been associated with one or more of seven soil conditions: 1) fine-textured soil; 2) poor structure; 3) inadequate drainage; 4) underestimated organic matter level; 5) eroded soil, especially on slopes; 6) low fertility levels and soil acidity; 7) herbicide ineffectiveness.

Using the soil management group concept, determine if no-till will be successful on your farm. Soil management groups are groups of soils (soil series) with similar properties and yield potentials. The groups are formed on the basis of the dominant texture of the profile and natural drainage conditions under which the soils are formed. To determine the soil type of soil series in a region, consult a soil and water conservation map or refer to the county soil survey report. These are usually available at the local Soil Conservation District office or the county Extension office.

Another important consideration is the availability of specialized equipment, herbicides and pesticides necessary for no-till. They can usually be obtained through local suppliers but should be ordered early.

No-till planters are manufactured by the major farm equipment companies. Usually a fluted coulter with heavy-duty mounting is required to assure adequate penetration in firm soil. The basic planter unit must be rugged and heavy to stand up under extreme conditions.

You should figure tractor size at roughly 10 to 15 percent larger than when using a conventional no-till planter. Therefore, fertilizer placement should be slightly more than two inches to the side and below the seed to insure good seed germination without fertilizer injury.

Some farmers have solved the problem by widening the ridge strip with two fluted coulters on the planting unit.

Nitrogen Application

Surface-applied nitrogen normally does not cause problems, because nitrogen fertilizers are soluble and move readily with water.

Chairman of the Board

Another important consideration is the availability of phosphorus to the soil. Some soils are acid forming and consequently the soil surface can rapidly become acidic. The availability of phosphorus to the plant near the surface is also affected by soil pH. Therefore, it may be advisable to liming more frequently with smaller amounts than normal. An alternative would be to plow every three or four years to incorporate lime and fertilizer nutrients.

Fertilizer Placement

Band applications of phosphorus are particularly important where soil phosphorus tests are high. Soil test procedures for phosphorus are particularly important on farms with low test requirements. Proper placement of starter fertilizer may be more difficult with conventional no-till planters.

There are no clear-cut guidelines as to the best way to fertilizer no-till corn. There is a problem that no-till methods do not offer a way to incorporate large amounts of fertilizer or lime," says Dr. Maurice Vitsas, Michigan State University agronomy specialist.

Nearly all nitrogen fertilizers are acid forming and consequently the soil surface can rapidly become acidic. The availability of phosphorus to the plant near the surface is also affected by soil pH. Therefore, it may be advisable to lime more frequently with smaller amounts than normal.

Anhydrous ammonia has been successfully used in the no-till system and will reduce the need for frequent liming as it is incorporated in the soil rather than surface applied.

Applicator knives should be equipped with rolling coulters ahead of each knife and a packer wheel behind to prevent ammonia escaping through the slit made by the knives.

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No-till guidelines

(Continued from page 29)

Ammonium nitrate may be the best source of nitrogen for surface application on heavy residues. Surface applied nitrogen also has a greater possibility of being tied up in organic residues. Consequently, 10 to 20 percent more nitrogen may be required where residues are encountered. Surface residues have the advantage of keeping soil temperatures cool and reducing evaporation, but they may also contribute to leading or runoff losses in years of excess moisture. On fine-textured soils, excess moisture may enhance denitrification by prolonging water-logged conditions.

Soil Fertility Levels

A regular soil "testing program should be an essential part of any corn production program, including no-till. Soil samples should be taken every second or third year to be sure good soil fertility is being maintained. If soil pH or nutritional levels have decreased, more lime and fertilizer may be necessary to incorporate needed lime before going no-till.

Vegetation control

In a conventional tillage program, the producer usually has the option of cultivation if the chemical program proves inadequate. But in a total no-till system, this option is not available," says Drs. R. W. Chase and W.F. Meggitt, Michigan State University crop science specialists.

Covering a no-till system requires a greater degree of skill on the part of the producer. No-till is used on sod or meadow fields and on crop residue fields such as corn following corn, or corn following wheat. Weed control in each situation may require different chemical tools. Existing sods present the greatest challenge to satisfactory vegetation control. Corn will do much better on soil that has been cleanly harvested.

On sod where the residue has been allowed to accumulate, the corn plant will have the toughest time getting satisfactorily established. Excessive trash can absorb herbicides, interfere with good performance of the fluted coulter, prevent proper seed placement and result in poor closing of the soil over the seed. Soil type, crop residue, soil density and moisture condition influence performance of the chemical used. For dense sod, 40 to 50 gallons per acre is suggested. On a clean cropped field, where vegetation cover is not dense, 20 to 25 gallons per acre is adequate.

The following are suggested treatments for vegetation control:

Cover #1
Predominantly alfalfa or considerable perennial broadleaf weeds plus some grasses such as timothy, bromegrass and annual weeds.

Treatment
Apply 2,4-D low volatile ester at 1/4 pounds per acre 7 to 10 days before planting corn. Apply Aatrex at 2 pounds per acre plus paraquat at a rate of 1 to 2 pints per acre at planting time. When paraquat is used in the tank, mix K-77 or a similar non-ionic surfactant according to manufacturer's suggestions.

Cover #2
Predominantly grasses such as bluegrass, timothy, bromegrass and annual weeds.

Treatment
Appply 2,4-D at 1 to 2 pounds per acre plus paraquat at 1 to 2 pints per acre at planting time. Use higher rates where the harder to kill species, such as bromegrass predominate.

Cover #3
Predominantly quackgrass plus broadleaf annual weeds.

Treatment
For maximum control of quackgrass, use a split application of Aatrex. Apply Aatrex at 2 pounds per acre plus crop oil at 1 gallon per acre or a crop oil concentrate at 1 quart per acre when quackgrass has
The 1976 target prices are as follows:

- Wheat ($/Bu.): 2.29
- Corn ($/Bu.): 1.57
- Sorghum ($/Bu.): 0.98
- Barley ($/Bu.): 1.49
- Oats ($/Bu.): 0.87
- Rye ($/Bu.): 1.19
- Soybeans ($/Bu.): 2.56

In light of expanded production of Brazilian soybeans and Asian palm oil, a loan program has been reinstated on soybeans. The 1974 soybean loan program. Loans offer agricultural producers an opportunity to obtain cash and hold their crops for later sale add to even our marketings.

Disaster payments, at a rate of not less than one-third of the national average market price or (2) the loan rate is less than the target price for each crop, will be paid to eligible producers who are prevented, from planting a crop or whose yields are substantially reduced to a natural disaster.

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- Corn: 1.57
- Sorghum: 0.98
- Barley: 1.49
- Oats: 0.87
- Rye: 1.19
- Soybeans: 2.56

In determining loan rates, the Secretary is required to take into consideration a number of factors, including, for example, world market price but not less than $1.81 for corn ($1.59), $1.71 for wheat ($1.59), $1.38 for rye ($1.36), $1.49 for barley ($1.42), $1.19 for oats ($1.17), $1.71 for sorghum ($1.65), and $2.56 for soybeans in 1975 as well as changes in the three-year moving average of the various grains.

USD A ANNOUNCED that the interest rate for the period April 1, 1976 to March 31, 1977, for commodity loans and on storage facility loans, are increased from the current level of 7.5 percent.

There was no resale price established for soybeans in 1975 as there was no loan program. The per hundredweight resale price for soybeans in 1976 is $3.05 compared to $2.79 in 1975.

Provisions of the 1973 Act require that target prices for the 1976 crop be adjusted upward from the 1975 levels to reflect increased production costs during 1976. The 1976 loan levels are also being adjusted upward from the minimum levels set by the legislation; these increases reflect approximately the same percentage increase as made in the target prices.

The target prices and loan rates provide a guaranteed support base while adhering to the principle of reliance on the marketplace for farm income," Secretary Butz said. "Farm income and farm production have reached all-time records under our present market-oriented agricultural policy," he said.

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- JD. 122

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- JD. 341 2 PT.
- JD. 342 1 PT.
- JD. 343 3 PT.
- JD. 345 4 PT.

COMBINES
- JD. 50 OIL WHEAT
- JD. 50 WHEAT
- JD. 50 CORN
- JD. 50 SORGHUM

SPREADERS
- JD. 40
- JD. 50
- JD. 60
- JD. 80

MISC.
- JD. 102 2 ROW
- JD. 103 3 ROW
- JD. 104 4 ROW
- JD. 105 5 ROW
- JD. 106 6 ROW

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No-till guidelines

(Concluded from page 29)

started active growth in the spring, 7 to 10 days before planting.
At time of planting, apply Aatrex at 2 pounds per acre plus paraquat at 1 to 2 quarts per acre. If perennial broadleaf weeds are also considerable, use 2, 4-D at 2 quarts per acre with the first application of Aatrex.
If the split application timing is not feasible, or kept with early corn planting, apply one application of Aatrex at 4 pounds per acre at planting.
Cover #1: A grain stubble or the residue of the new crop, such as corn or soybeans, where grasses and broadleaf predominate.

Treatment

Apply Aatrex at 1 to 1/4 pounds per acre plus Lasso at 2 to 3 quarts per acre plus paraquat at 1 to 1 1/2 quarts per acre at planting time.

Cover #2: A grain stubble or the residue of a row crop - such as corn or soybeans with annual grass problems - plus selective weed problems such as nutsedge, Simpson weed, smartweed, Canada thistle.

Treatment

Refer to Extension Bulletin E-434 "Weed Control in Field Crops," available at local county Extension offices.

PLANTS CONTRIBUTE

(Concluded from page 30)

Carew said, "The same plants can also increase property values significantly."

SOME PEOPLE get involved with plants because of a sense of responsibility. "The plant is something to care for and feed," said Carew. "In a sense, it is a pet. It may also offer relaxation and personal enrichment."

"Plants are a psychologically calming effect," stated Carew. They can have beneficial effects upon human behavior, attitudes and morale. He related a story about the calming effect the MSU hor­ticulturist, proving the natural beauty of plants appeals to many people, and in many ways, "Living walls" of trees and shrubs can be found between houses and backyards, and surrounding dumps and junkyards. Fences may block out the same things, but plants have an advantage by blending with the natural surroundings. A fence may be objectionable in itself, but a plant wall is not.

"Plants offer shade and protection from the wind," said Carew. "They are also living acoustical tile," said Carew. "They are very effective noise barriers. This is why trees and shrubs are being planted along highways and freeways."

"Plants are more than just a beautiful. We need them."
Make Alfalfa variety recommendations for 1976

By M.B. Tesar
Department of Crop and Soil Sciences,
Michigan State University

OVER SEVEN TONS PER YEAR

Pfifteen of 36 varieties produced an average yield of 7 tons of hay per acre at East Lansing in the 6-year period 1964-1975. Five varieties produced 7.5 tons or more. One variety, 220, yielded nearly 8 tons of hay per acre per year for the 6-year period. The excellent yields were due partly to the excellent class of alfalfa soil and four cuttings per year rather than three. Four cuttings per year in the last four years increased the yield about one ton per acre per year (based on earlier MSU research). Other recommended management and fertilizer practices followed are listed on page 34D.

CHARACTERISTICS OF VARIETY TYPES

Alfalfa varieties in the United States are of two general types - North American or French. 1. North American types are winterhardy or very winterhardy, start to bloom in late May or early June in southern Michigan, are generally fine-stemmed, moderate in recovery after cutting, and have moderate fall dormancy. 4. French (or Flammande types) originated or were developed from stock originating in the Flemish area in northern France. When wilt resistant, they have been higher yielding than most North American types in short-to-medium-term stands. They are generally fine-stemmed, earlier to flower 3-5 days earlier, recover more rapidly after cutting, are less dormant in the fall, and are generally more wilt resistant and hardy varieties should be used. 1. Good stands, preferably by bands of 10-12 lb/A for 3-5 yrs or pasture. Seed cost per pound of inoculated seed, followed by a fall packer or press wheel; 2. Proper fertilization (according to seed tests) with phosphorus and potassium at seeding; 3. pH corrected to 6.8; 4. Good drainage; 5. Three cuttings instead of two in southern Michigan, the fourth only slightly by seed. The third any time in late May or early June, the third any time in late May or early June, and the second any time in late May or early June, and the third any time in late May or early June, as late as possible; 6. Adequate annual fertilization particularly with potassium; 7. Spraying to control the alfalfa weevil when necessary; 8. Proper harvesting and storing methods; and 9. Good drainage. 1. Good stands, preferably by bands of 10-12 lb/A for 3-5 yrs or pasture. Seed cost per pound of inoculated seed, followed by a fall packer or press wheel; 2. Proper fertilization (according to seed tests) with phosphorus and potassium at seeding; 3. pH corrected to 6.8; 4. Good drainage; 5. Three cuttings instead of two in southern Michigan, the fourth only slightly by seed. The third any time in late May or early June, the third any time in late May or early June, and the second any time in late May or early June, and the third any time in late May or early June, as late as possible; 6. Adequate annual fertilization particularly with potassium; 7. Spraying to control the alfalfa weevil when necessary; 8. Proper harvesting and storing methods; and 9. Good drainage.

THE CHOICE OF alfalfa varieties is dependent on the yield goal desired, the length of stand, desired, seed conditions, availability of seed, and intended use - for hay or silage - or pasture. Seed cost per pound should not be a high factor in variety selection since the total cost of establishment is affected only slightly by seed cost, especially when computed over the useful life of the stand. 15. Routinely, however, the irrigation costs of production are increased by the number of cuttings per year. 16. Alfalfa wilt resistance and winterhardiness are the two most important factors governing the selection of high-yielding varieties. Bacterial wilt causes death and stand thinning starting in the second growing year. For stands to be left three years or more, bacterial wilt resistance is necessary. Since about 1/3 of alfalfa stands in Michigan are left for 3 to 4 years and the remainder for a longer period, only wilt resistant varieties are now being recommended since an adequate number of adequately tested wilt resistant varieties is now available. Winterhardiness is necessary for all alfalfa varieties to be kept more than one year in Michigan but to the extent once thought necessary. Varieties classified as moderately hardy or hardy enough for Michigan for alfalfa stands left for 3 to 4 years, and even for stands left 5 to 6 years. For stands intended for 5 years or more or when used for pasture, only hardy or very hardy varieties should be used.

THE CHOICE of alfalfa variety depends on the yield goal desired, the length of stand, desired, seed conditions, availability of seed, and intended use - for hay (or silage) or pasture. Seed cost per pound should not be a high factor in variety selection since the total cost of establishment is affected only slightly by seed cost, especially when computed over the useful life of the stand. Bacterial wilt resistance and winterhardiness are the two most important factors governing the selection of high-yielding varieties. Bacterial wilt causes death and stand thinning starting in the second growing year. For stands to be left three years or more, bacterial wilt resistance is necessary. Since about 1/3 of alfalfa stands in Michigan are left for 3 to 4 years and the remainder for a longer period, only wilt resistant varieties are now being recommended since an adequate number of adequately tested wilt resistant varieties is now available. Winterhardiness is necessary for all alfalfa varieties to be kept more than one year in Michigan but to the extent once thought necessary. Varieties classified as moderately hardy or hardy enough for Michigan for alfalfa stands left for 3 to 4 years, and even for stands left 5 to 6 years. For stands intended for 5 years or more or when used for pasture, only hardy or very hardy varieties should be used.

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Hearing loss to farm workers may be serious says safety engineer

Time was when life on farm was tranqul, but not now. Millions of Michigan farmers are losing their hearing from noise exposed daily.

"By age 45, many farmers have hearing loss enough to impair normal hearing of speech," says Dr. Richard G. Pfister, Michigan State University agricultural safety engineer.

Even toys which operated farm equipment while growing up on farms began showing hearing early in life. Too much noise may affect safety and health. It can be fatiguing, reduce work, and produce errors and accidents.

Hearing damage may come from tractors, harvesters, grain mills, grain driers, chain saws, power saws or other loud sounds such as gun fire, snowmobiles, etc.

"If you can ring after exposure, to loud or prolonged noise, they may have hearing damaged. Noise-induced hearing loss rarely involves total deafness, and early stages 'usually don't occur at the lower frequencies. If louer can't be reversed and may affect ability to hear speech" a person can become unemployable.

The risk of hearing loss grows with increase in frequency and length of exposure to sound. It travels in waves similar to those created by waves from a tambour or waves from a tambour or waves from a tambour. It travels in waves similar to those created by waves from a tambour or waves from a tambour. It travels in waves similar to those created by waves from a tambour or waves from a tambour.

"Ear protection is needed at safe levels, hearing aided operators shall not be impaired more than an hour or more than a half-hour. Ear plugs or muffs, Pfister says.

With few exceptions, operators need ear protection when using cab or near machinery. A person can hear speech under more than 95 dB after 15-15 minutes. Operators need ear protection is worn.

"Air conditioning is recommended for all machinery because of the noise. It won't prevent workmen from hearing conversation or how the equipment is functioning but may prevent infection. Ear plugs are available as foam rubber, as fiber plastic. They are less bulky than muff's but may not be as comfortable. Foam rubber and wax fiber types are long and appropriate. They can be used in dirty or require frequent replacement. Wax fiber plugs are more expensive. Ear plugs and muff's may not be as comfortable. They should be custom fitted to be effective and kept clean to prevent infection.

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Early reaper featured at Ford Museum

The fifteenth of February marked the birthday of an industrialist and inventor who sparked the growth of mechanized agriculture in America. Cyrus Hall McCormick was not only the inventor of the mechanical reaper, but one of the wealthiest entrepreneurs of the 19th century. He revolutionized the agricultural industry in the mid-1800s, creating a new era of mechanized agriculture.

McCormick was born February 15, 1809 in Rockbridge County, Va., the fertile grain farming area of the Virginia Valley. His father, Robert McCormick, had long-termed as a publisher and printer. The McCormick reaper was a combination of different features from earlier machines, rather than an entirely new invention. It combined: 1) a reciprocating cutter or sickle bar; 2) a rotating reel to bring grain into the cutter; 3) a platform to catch the grain; and 4) an outside divider to keep standing grain from clogging the machine. Its chief advantage was that it could do the work of six men with cradle scythes, harvesting 12 to 15 acres of grain a day. With minor modifications, it was used by the army during the Civil War.

In the mid-1800s, McCormick's reaper was an example of the American rags-to-riches success story. He was a prime mover of the McCormick reaper was a combination of different features from earlier machines, rather than an entirely new invention. It combined: 1) a reciprocating cutter or sickle bar; 2) a rotating reel to bring grain into the cutter; 3) a platform to catch the grain; and 4) an outside divider to keep standing grain from clogging the machine. Its chief advantage was that it could do the work of six men with cradle scythes, harvesting 12 to 15 acres of grain a day. With minor modifi cations, it was used by the army during the Civil War.

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However, long litigation ensued sometimes involved legal celebrities like William H. Seward and Abraham Lincoln. Even politics and religion took a back seat to business. McCormick was a staunch Democrat and Presbyterian, firmly opposed to abolitionists and secession of the South, but that didn't keep him from selling reapers to prominent northern farmers. A further close friend of Stephen Douglas, he ran for congress in 1864 but lost the election.

Visitors to the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn can see the 1848 Seymour & Morgan reaper, almost identical to McCormick's original invention, as a part of a self-guided bicentennial tour. Admission to the Museum is $3 for adults and $1.25 for children 6 through 12. Children under 6 are admitted free.

The Museum has in its collection a 1855 McCormick reaper. This was typical behavior for the time; it is to McCormick's credit that the machine remained in use for over 100 years. The 1855 McCormick reaper was a combination of different features from earlier machines, rather than an entirely new invention. It combined: 1) a reciprocating cutter or sickle bar; 2) a rotating reel to bring grain into the cutter; 3) a platform to catch the grain; and 4) an outside divider to keep standing grain from clogging the machine. Its chief advantage was that it could do the work of six men with cradle scythes, harvesting 12 to 15 acres of grain a day. With minor modifications, it was used by the army during the Civil War.

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Spring rose news

For 38 years, All-America Rose Selections has been admitting new roses into its 26 official test gardens scattered about the United States. These test gardens are open to all of the new hybrids whose breeders have the courage to submit their originations to what is readily admitted to be the most rigorous and exacting rose testing program in the world. The harsh rules governing the operation are inflexible and have never been changed. After two years of exhaustive appraisal in which every characteristic of the new variety is evaluated time and time again, either the entry emerges among the meager 4% who win All-America Rose Selections awards, or it goes on the brush pile. Ninety-six percent of the entries will feel the sharp blade of the spade, as it abruptly ends their lives at the end of the testing period and relegates them to the discard, along with the hopes, dreams and endless hours of labor of those who originated them. It is by this stern, yet efficient and necessary program, however, that many roses that just can't quite make the grade are prevented from cluttering up the market. Those few who do emerge triumphant with an award, will find a place in the gardens of the nation and the admiration of all who love fine roses, because that is what they are, the finest of the new roses.

(Concluded on page 37C)
SPRING ROSE NEWS

(Concluded from page 36C)

Blessed this year with All-America honors are four outstanding new roses. AMERICA, a hybrid of William Warriner of California and the first climber to win an award in 19 years, CATHEDRAL, a floribunda from that irrepressible Irish hybridizer, Sam McGredy IV, SEASHELL, a dainty orange-sherbert hybrid tea from Reimer Kordes of Germany, and YANKEE DOODLE, a bulletin orange-sherbert hybrid tea from the same world famous hybridizer.

Now, to examine these four in detail:

AMERICA (Plant Patent No. 3629). Of course there might have been a little thought put into the naming of this new climber, seeing as it will first bloom in American gardens in the nation's bicentennial year and is the product of an American hybridizer.

At any rate, it well earned its All-America award with probably the most perfect "tea rose," long-stemmed blooms of any known climber. Being a 'climbing rose,' AMERICA with two strikes against it to start with, has neither the shape of a pillar rose than an out and out climber. It will attain heights of about 10 ft. under ordinary conditions. The plants branch well and continue to produce large quantities of blooms throughout the season. There is virtually no fading of the flowers from opening to a" pastel rose. AMERICA is his, third AARS award winner. One Kentucky farmer of the early 1800's described it this way:

"Perhaps, one of the greatest obstacles to the keepers of sheep has been the savage destruction made among them by worthless curs kept by worthless crows. In those days, the cows, trying to protect their calves, advanced on the dog. The steers were forced to drive the cattle.

Guard steers protect sheep

Early farmers who raised sheep were plagued with a problem of wandering dogs, which developed into wanton killers of their flocks.

From the example of the cows and also attacked the dog.

CATHEDRAL (Plant Patent No. 3224). Often a new rose that is highly successful in Europe will be entered into the All-America Rose Selections trials only after five years. Not so with the new floribunda award winner, CATHEDRAL. Before competing here, it had already won a Trial Ground Certificate of the National Rose Society of England; Certificate of Merit, Japan; Certificate of Merit, Australia; Silver Medal, Baden-Baden, Germany; Gold Star of the South Pacific, New Zealand, and the Gold Medal of Portland, Oregon. Entered into the AARS trials, CATHEDRAL beat right on its triumphal march and emerged as a 1976 award winner.

The individual blooms of CATHEDRAL range for a floribunda, averaging 1½ to 2½ inches, and are borne in clusters, each of which could be cut for a beautiful bouquet. The rich golden apricot blooms, semi-double with 15 to 16 delicately ruffled petals, display bright golden stamens in their fully opened flowers that add greatly to their beauty. The blooms also possess a sweet, fresh fragrance that increases their attractiveness in the garden and as cut flowers.

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Farming loan rates stabilize

The interest rate you pay on a new farm loan in 1976 will likely be the same as you would have paid in late 1975, says a Michigan State University agronomist.

"What you borrow from may affect credit availability and the interest rate you pay," John Brake advises farmers. "Some lenders are more willing to make loans than others, so rates may differ. You also may pay a low or low fixed interest rate on a short-term loan than on a long-term loan, but in general, interest rates will be about the same in 1976 as in late 1975."

Fertilizing your lawn

All lawns need fertilizer. If you don't believe it, spread some on a small patch and wait to see the results. Early April is a good time to fertilize your lawn. Fertilizer applied in early April will not burn the grass as readily as when applied in late May or early June. Fertilizing can cause rapid growth and necessitate frequent mowing. The grass will fall in small open areas so there is less incentive for weed invasion. A healthy, dense turf is the best defense against weeds.

Fertilizers should be applied with care. Rotary, broadcast-type spreaders will not uniformly distribute the material more service of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. Here's how it works: the aim of the board is to promote full employment and to achieve price stability. To do so, the board adjusts or contracts the money supply. When the money supply expands, there's more credit available; this encourages business expansion and increases job opportunities. When the money supply contracts, there is less credit available, which discourages expansion and slows inflation.

"The dilemma is that the economy is suffering from both unemployment and inflation," Brake says. "So, the board must set a monetary policy that is expansive enough to encourage business expansion yet restrictive enough to restrain inflation. Hence, we should not expect any drastic changes in monetary policies."

A second factor affecting credit is federal fiscal policy: that is, taxes and spending. In 1975, the federal government borrowed a substantial amount because spending exceeded taxes. This put pressure on the money markets and boosted interest rates. While the national budget will likely continue on the deficit side in 1976, the deficit should be smaller than in early 1975, Brake says.

"As for the third factor - the psychological viewpoint - when businessmen see good future prospects, they borrow money to expand their productive capacity, build inventories and increase production," Brake says. "Savers are also influenced by the inflationary situation and by interest rates. If inflation rates make interest rates worth less over time, rather than worth more, there is less incentive to save."

Economic recovery is slow, so the economy continues to be sluggish. For that reason, Brake foresees neither strong demand by businessmen for borrowed funds, nor great incentive for savers to invest in monetary securities.

But if business continues to recover throughout 1976, it's possible that business demand for funds will increase; with the continued deficit financing by the government that could mean higher interest rates toward the end of 1976.

Fertilizers should be applied uniformly as drill or drop type spreaders. The drill or drop type are safer if herbicide fertilizer mixtures are applied in vegetable gardens or ornamental plantings.

These combinations of herbicides - fertilizers can be used efficiently and conveniently for weed control and fertilization when used at the proper rate and time. These materials should be applied only when needed for weed or disease control. Carefully follow directions on the label for rate and method of application. Do not use these mixtures on adjacent vegetable, garden or ornamental plantings.

What do you expect from a lender?

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Check alternatives before buying livestock waste handling system

Most livestock producers eventually will have some type of highly mechanized manure handling system as part of their farm operation. Many of these will include a facility for storing manure. 

"Decisions will likely be influenced more by restrictive legislation on the farm than the need to avoid pollution problems, if they exist," says Loudon.

Most livestock producers in Michigan have enough land that they can avoid future pollution problems if they choose spreading areas carefully.

"The primary concern of producers should be the type of spreading equipment to be used most efficiently for them at the lowest cost and to be the most expensive and elaborate on the market is not necessarily best suited for every farmer's operation," Loudon adds.

Besides initial outlay, producers should consider annual costs, required supplemental labor and how the system blends with the farm management program.

Strip farming a century old

While poor farming practices on many farms, and other neglect of the soil prevailed well into the 20th century in the face of early attempts at conservation methods dating back a century or more.

In 1865, more than 200 farms on rounded hills in Lyon County, Il., were being tilled according to strip farming practices, alternating crops as corn with unrotated crops like grass or winter wheat. Slightly, the practice spread.

In 1928, the U.S. Department of Agriculture started to awaken farmers to the threat of poor farming practices in its bulletin, "Soil Ero­SION: A National Menace." But it took a farming disaster, the "Black Blizzard" of May 13, 1934 to drive the extent of the problem home.

Then a series of droughts accompanied by high winds stripped farms in Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Colorado of their top soil and carried the top black clouds for hundreds of miles.

The "dust bowl" and the pathetic migrations of destitute families led in expansion of efforts of the government's Soil Conserva­tion Service, which had just been created in 1933.
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As you know there are a number of ways to get a job done and talking it over with Charlie will help you pick the right one. Besides being a good banker, Charlie is a pro at analyzing and solving your farm needs and problems. From checking and savings accounts to a loan for your special project he's the man to see.

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