

et Protection or Dangerous Rail Crossing

Townline Community Farm Bureau of Van Buren county has had an important part in getting protection for a dangerous railroad crossing. Assistance was given by Michigan Farm Bureau.

About 1 1/2 miles north of Hartford the C & O track crosses county highway 657. Three passenger and four freight trains pass daily. The track crosses the road at a 40 degree angle. Eight school buses trying to cross daily use the crossing twice daily.

The accident record for the crossing was poor. There had been several fatalities. Townline Farm Bureau joined in the effort to get warning signals installed.

In April 1946 Townline went to the road commission with a petition that had 1058 signers. No action was taken. A main obstacle was the cost—\$3,000.

At a Blue Cross meeting in 1948, the crossing got into the conversation. Mrs. Karker suggested that she had the Michigan Farm Bureau aid help. Mrs. Clarence Patterson reported that to Townline Farm Bureau, and it was decided to confer with E. F. Steffen of the Michigan Farm Bureau staff.

Mr. Steffen cited Act 336 whereby the Michigan Public Service Commission can order crossing signals installed if sufficient evidence can be mustered that a crossing is used enough to justify the expense. The railroad and the county share the expense equally. Mr. Steffen asked for complete information. A hearing was arranged before the Public Service Commission. Enough evidence was produced to justify an inspection of the crossing, Sept. 8, 1948.

The inspection was attended by 150 people, representing the state, county, railroad and Farm Bureau. The commission's safety engineer recommended the warning signals, now estimated at \$3800. In April, 1949 the railroad was ordered to install them.

After conferring with the road commission, Townline Farm Bureau agreed to help raise funds. Supervisors of Hartford township voted \$600 and \$280 was raised by subscription. The crossing signals were installed in November of 1949. It took a long time, but they're there to protect life and property.

—From Van Buren County Farm Bureau News.

Services Enlarges Facilities at Hastings



This is the new Farm Bureau Services' two-story building at Hastings. It is located just south of its present buildings on North Church Street. In addition to serving as a machinery sales and service department, a parts department and a display or show room, the building will house the general offices of the Barry County Farm Bureau and a soil testing laboratory, sponsored by the County Farm Bureau. The structure is of cinder block, 40 by 80 ft., with two stories on the front half of the building. The second floor has space for the County Farm Bureau offices and a meeting room capable of seating 200 people. The construction cost was about \$15,000, which was raised by the sale of securities to local farmers. Howard King is manager of the Hastings branch store.

Fertilizer

Every dairy cow produces fertilizer valued at \$30 a year but not all farmers get full value from it, MSC specialists have found.

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Willingness to Work Made America Great

"Americans have long enjoyed the highest standard of living of any people on earth," said Dr. Earl L. Butz of Purdue University at the Michigan Live Stock Exchange annual meeting at Lansing, March 11.

"That is the result of American willingness to work" applied to our abundant resources. But today in too many places our drive is to curtail output rather than expand production. When this type of reasoning becomes general, the result must be a lowered standard of living for everyone. If we would have more, we must produce more. There is no other short cut to added luxury, leisure or convenience.

"Sometimes my friends ask me where we will find a market tomorrow for the increased productive capacity we have today. That doesn't worry me. In the last ten years in America we have increased our population by 19 million people. That is 1 1/2 times the entire population of Canada.

"We are going to increase our population by 19 million or more in the next ten years. Those people are going to eat and wear clothes. They will require houses, refrigerators, automobiles, etc. We have a tremendous market for the output of farm and factory at our back door.

"Our job is to keep increasing productive efficiency and to price our products into the market. We must not price food into storage, as we are doing with eggs, butter and corn. Nor must we price food into destruction, as we have done with potatoes. We must price it into consumption. And if we keep improving our productive efficiency and lowering our unit costs, it will not be difficult to do that.

"I came back from Europe two years ago with the firm conviction that the thing that is dragging

many European nations to lower levels of living is the philosophy of the 40 hour week, the 35 hour week, and the feeling that if you can divide this job in two, let's do it.

"All over Europe I found a tremendous demand for American dollars. It is because the United States is one of the few places in the world where the level of production is sufficiently high so that we can supply ourselves with the necessities of life and still have some goods to sell. That is why the world wants dollars.



DR. E. L. BUTZ

"In Europe the people are rationed severely on what we consider to be the essential living items, chiefly because their level of production is so low. As a consequence of rationing, they are becoming disillusioned and dispirited.

"Even in democratic England, personal freedom is but a memory. You can't change jobs without permission from the government, you can't start or stop producing, start or stop selling, without first getting permission.

"I am disturbed as I look around America today and see we are divided into warring camps. Each group seems to be motivated more or less by a philosophy of reduced output. Restrictive practices and featherbedding in some parts of labor; monopolistic practices and restraints of trade in some sectors of business; in some places in agriculture there is the philosophy that we must keep our output strictly under control. We are marching into a program for guaranteed scarcity rather than plenty.

"We must strive for expanded markets—not curtailed output. We must recognize that we can't gouge each other into prosperity. We must recognize that wealth consists of increasing efficiency, lowering unit costs, increasing total output."

FEEDS and FEEDINGS



Are You Raising Chicks This Year?

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Remember Poultryman Ballard's broilers? He sold 5,920 of them from the original 6,000 he bought. This was possible with good chicks, good management and good feed, Farm Bureau Hi N-R-G Mash. For pullets (and he's raising pullets for sale, too!) he feeds Mermash.

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Porkmaker 35% for Pigs & Brood Sows

Farm Bureau Porkmaker 35% is nutritionally complete for your sows and pigs up to 75 - 100 lbs.; after that you can save by using Farm Bureau Porkmaker 40% and mixing with more of your home grains.

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Spring Seeding Of Alfalfa or Clover in Wheat

Seeding legumes in a wheat field started the fall before, often poses some problems, but Carter M. Harrison, Michigan State College forage authority says it can be done.

Two methods are common. One is to scatter seed on top of the ground as the snow goes off, relying on frost action to cover the seed. The other is to wait until the field has dried off enough to drill the seed on the field.

Harrison likes the second plan best for alfalfa. Seeding of a mixture of red clover and timothy or sweet clover as the snow goes off gives fairly good results, however. That is, provided the wheat had enough fertilizer applied in the fall to furnish the little seeds their

nutrition needs.

In southern Michigan, it is usually best to drill the field with alfalfa seed after it has dried sufficiently to do the job. Less hardy than the clovers, alfalfa seed on top of the ground often freezes and swells and fails to germinate properly.

Seedings made with a drill on heavy soil are more apt to get well established than on lighter soils, Harrison points out. It's a matter of moisture available to germinate the seeds.

Farmers should remember that the little alfalfa seeds have a lot of competing to do for moisture. Wheat plants are already big and growing and unless conditions are favorable, the young legume seeds do not do well. They should remember that legumes seeded late in the spring just get out of the ground and meet the hot dry summer weather and fail.

He advises not to plant bromegrass with alfalfa on wheat in the spring, but use timothy. Bromegrass should be seeded with wheat in the fall.

Don't Go To All Late Corn

Just because the last two corn years have been almost perfect for late maturity there's no reason for farmers to shift all their acreage to late maturing varieties in 1950. E. C. Rossman of the farm crops dept at Michigan State College, says that 1950 could be a more normal corn growing season. Early frosts could damage late hybrids.

Through trials conducted in all parts of the state by Michigan State College, information is obtained on the hybrids which mature and yield best in different areas. Information on these tests is available to farmers in Extension Folder F-67. It is available from county agricultural agents or from the Bulletin Office, Michigan State College, East Lansing.

Many farmers, according to Rossman, believe they must plant a late hybrid to get high corn yields. While it is generally true that late hybrids yield more than early hybrids, there are some early maturing kinds that produce as well. He suggests that farmers growing more than 20 acres of corn plant two or three hybrids of different maturity. Unfavorable weather conditions may do less total corn crop damage when there is a spread in maturity.

Trying a few acres of one or more newer hybrids that show some superior characteristics over older hybrids is another suggestion Rossman makes.

2,4-D

There's nothing in weed killers like 2,4-D that can cause trouble with livestock that graze on sprayed pastures, Michigan State College researchers report.

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Readers Digest Quotes Berrien

Berrien County Farm Bureau is quoted by Stanley High in his article "The Time to Stop the Spenders is Now." In the Reader's Digest for April 1950, Page 133. Quoted is the resolution adopted by Berrien at its county meeting and presented to the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in November, 1949:

"By reason of pressure groups demanding Government subsidies," declared a resolution adopted by the farmer members of the Farm Bureau of Berrien County, Michigan, "we are losing our system of free enterprise and our liberties. Therefore we oppose the agricultural price-support program and all other Government price and wage supports. We urge return to free enterprise in our national economy."

Reader's Digest has more than 5,000,000 subscribers.

Ladders and Steps

Are ladders and steps around the home well-built and kept in good repair? This is an important safety measure.

