

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE EXPERIMENT STATION.

PRESS BULLETIN NO. 37.

To the Editor :

The notice below will be of value to many of your readers. We, therefore, ask you to co-operate with us in calling attention to this timely matter.

R. S. SHAW,
Director.

Prevent Stock from Eating the Dead Bodies of Clover-Leaf Beetle.

From time to time there appears a small, grub-like creature that feeds on clover, a greenish, soft-bodied grub, the immature form of the clover-leaf beetle. It feeds usually at night on red-clover, alsike, alfalfa, and sometimes on white-clover and mammoth clover. Fortunately, nature has provided an agent which is likely to appear during excessive outbreaks of the pest, in the form of a fungus disease which destroys the grub, first impelling the dying insect to crawl up to the top of a grass spear and curl its body around the point. Here the grub dies and its body remains clinging there afterward until washed off by the rains. The appearance of the fungus disease has usually been almost simultaneous with the coming of the grub so that the loss from the clover-leaf beetle has been almost negligible thus far.

Now if this were the whole story we would be content to let well enough alone, but unfortunately the dead bodies of the grubs when killed by the fungus disease are poisonous to stock, usually not sufficiently poisonous to produce death, but often toxic enough to produce serious illness. It is therefore suggested that during the present outbreak of the grubs, stock be restrained from feeding on grass bearing such dead grubs (which will be found curled around the tips of grass spears), until after the weather has washed off their bodies and again made the forage safe.

R. H. PETTIT,
Entomologist of Experiment Station.

East Lansing, Michigan,
May 26, 1914.