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Seed Corn Beetles Reported

AMES — Reports of seed-corn beetles attacking unsprouted corn from Harrison county in western Iowa to Scott county in the east have come in to the entomology department at Iowa State University, according to Harold Gunderson, extension entomologist.

This has been true even in fields treated with aldrin or heptachlor or when seed was treated with lindane or dieldrin, Gunderson reports.

The species involved in all the reports is one quarter-inch long, slender, uniform reddish-brown in color, and quite active. These pests burrow in the soil and eat into the seed, killing the germ.

Observations in 1967 in eastern Iowa showed that this beetle didn't damage fields treated with organophosphate insecticides used for rootworm control. However, no chemical control can be applied after damage has begun.

Gunderson advises farmers to check their fields, and if re-planting is necessary, the sooner the better. Seed corn planted in warm, moist soil germinates rapidly, and the seed-corn beetle won't cause damage.

4-H News

PENN PACERS — The Penn Pacers 4-H Club Mother's Day Tea was held last week at the home of Connie and Debbie Meade. Twelve mothers were introduced to the group. The 4-H members decided to hold the annual Team Demo - Day June 26 at the Methodist Church in North Liberty.

SOUTH SCOTT LASSIES — The last regular meeting of the South Scott Lassies 4-H Club was held at the home of Phyllis Burr. Ten members were present. Demonstrations were given by Phyllis Burr on flower arrangement, Terri Petsel and Sherry Mueller on block printing. A June 8 meeting is planned at the home of Sherri Mueller.

SHARONETTES — The Sharonettes 4-H Club met last week at the home of Cathie Stutsman, who gave a talk on different styles of furniture. Judy Duwa gave a demonstration on different kinds of brushes.

Farm Tour Set Thursday

The Chamber of Commerce's annual Farm Tour is scheduled Thursday and will include visits to the fishery at Lake Macbride, a riding stable and the Iowa ram lamb testing station at Ely.

The tour will begin at 8 a.m., when businessmen are to gather at the Iowa City Civic Center. The tour offers business and professional people an opportunity to become better acquainted with new aspects of rural life.

First stop will be the Fishery Station at Lake Macbride, where state conservation officials will explain the operation of the station. Second stop will be Upmeier's Riding Stables between Solon and Ely. The owner, Vernon Upmeier, will explain problems involved in the operation of a riding stable.

Third stop will be at the Iowa Ram Testing Station at Ely, where lambs are tested for grade, yield and weight. It is the only installation of its kind in the United States.

Businessmen on the tour will eat lunch in Mount Vernon and should be back in Iowa City by 2:30 p.m.

'Need More Cropland Diverted'

WASHINGTON (AP) — A government look at general cropland proposals indicates about 40 percent more land than is now diverted would have to be removed from production to balance supply with demand at recent farm prices.

Administration efforts to get a long-range extension with expansion of major farm programs beyond 1969 crops has revived older schemes to meet the agricultural problem by using far less land and doing away with allotments, quotas and price supports.

An analysis by the Agriculture Department indicates that despite retirement of 50 million acres — about what is currently diverted — or even 70 million acres, potential farm production would be very large.

With freedom to choose among crops, government analysis concluded, very little corn acreage would be retired, and even the current yield output would be 10 per cent larger than the 1967 record crop.

Other projections include grain sorghum output about equal to last year's, a drop in oat and barley crops and with over-all feed grain production more highly concentrated in the corn belt.

Soybean production would exceed last year's billion-plus bushels and a cotton crop more than double that of 1967 could be anticipated.

On the assumption that unrestricted freedom of choice would mean that on most retired acres would be those earning the lowest returns per area planted, the government projection shows large-scale retirement of great plains land.

With a nationwide retirement of 50 million acres, the analysis indicates a wheat crop of 1.2 billion bushels compared to last year's production of 1.5 billion. If 70 million acres were removed, shrinkage of plains states wheatlands would contribute to a crop decline of 900 million bushels.

The analysis estimates it would cost the government about \$700 million yearly to keep 50 million acres out of production and \$1.2 billion annually to retire 70 million acres. Adjustments on such a scale would take several years to accomplish the government noted, and while under way would depress prices of corn and cotton, but temporarily raise wheat prices. Soybean output might go up or down depending upon competition with corn and cotton prices.

Eventually, as the government sees it, output and accumulation of hard-to-manage surpluses of higher price yielding crops would lower prices farmers got for them and tempt the planting of additional wheat acres and restart the cycle of over abundance and lower prices.

Local Sales Company Cited by Trade Unit

The Iowa City Sales Co., operated by D. J. Gatens and Sons on South Linn Street, has been named a Certified Livestock Market by trade association officials in Kansas City.

The Iowa City firm joins 850 competitive livestock markets in the country serving the livestock industry under the code of business standards of the trade association.

The Press-Citizen's

Farm Page

A Weekly Feature

Price of Slaughter Lambs Expected To Remain High

Slaughter lamb prices in Iowa at the end of April were about \$3 a hundredweight higher than a year earlier. According to an Iowa State University economist, choice and prime grade spring lambs in Interior Iowa are averaging about \$29.25 per hundredweight.

"This higher price level — \$28 to \$30 a hundred — is expected to continue into early summer before declining seasonally from the usual June peak to a low in late fall," said Al Rahn, extension economist.

"Although lamb prices will probably stay above year-ago levels throughout the remainder of 1968, the increase over last year will be somewhat smaller than the current difference, due to the sharp price increase in early May a year ago," he said.

Fed lamb prices began strengthening in Mid-January and have generally gained since then, the economist noted. A sharp price boost in mid-February resulted in prices \$5.50 above a year earlier, he said.

Sheep and lamb numbers continued to decline in the U.S. in 1967. On January 1 of this year, the inventory stood at 22.1 million head, down 7 per cent from Jan. 1, 1967, Rahn noted. Stock sheep numbers on Jan. 1 of this year totaled 19.2 million, also down 7 per cent from a year earlier.

"The continued liquidation of stock sheep numbers indicates that the 1968 lamb crop will also be smaller than the 15 million head raised in 1967," he said. "This year's lamb crop can be expected to total around 14.5 million head."

The number of lambs born before March 1 in the 10 major early lamb producing states, however, was almost the same as last year. A 10 per cent increase in the early lamb crop in Texas and slight increases in Idaho, Arizona and Missouri were offset by decreases in the other six states, according to Rahn.

Sheep and lambs on feed

March 1 in the seven major feeding states were estimated at slightly more than one million head, down three per cent from a year earlier, Rahn said.

Although the number of lambs on feed on March 1 was slightly smaller than a year ago, those in the 80 to 99-pound category were up more than 8 per cent from a year ago. Iowa on March 1 had 6 per cent more lambs on feed than a year earlier, Rahn said.

Tornadoes Interrupt Warm, Windy Week for Farmers

Last week started out with warm and windy weather, but was interrupted by tornadoes and cold winds the rest of the week that cut the number of days suitable for fieldwork to 5.4 according to the Weekly Weather and Crop Report issued today.

Rains throughout the state helped the topsoil moisture situation, particularly in the north-eastern and central counties. Only 17 per cent of the respondents indicated a shortage of moisture.

Pastures continued to improve during the week, with conditions ranging from mostly good to excellent. A total of 90 per cent of the respondents indicate pastures supplying a verage or above forage.

Corn planting rapidly approached completion despite

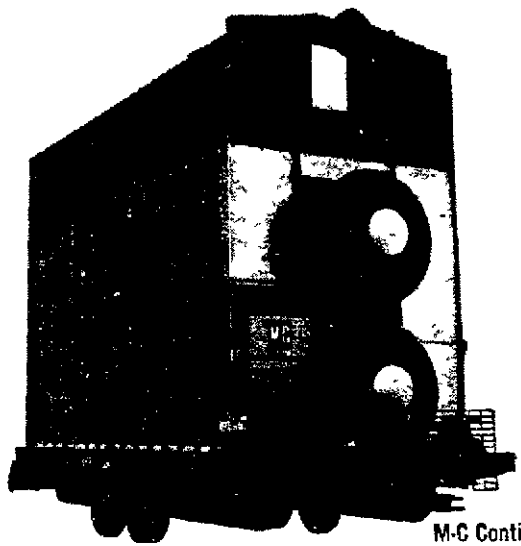
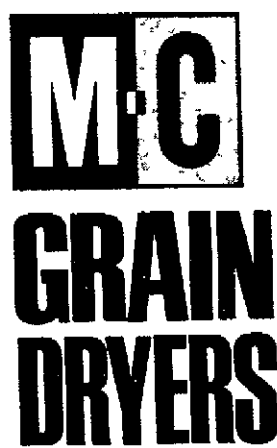
mid-week rains. About 98 per cent of the expected corn acreage has been seeded compared with 81 per cent a year ago, and the normal of 74 per cent.

Soybean planting is in full swing throughout the state, with about 46 per cent of the expected acreage already planted. This compares to 29 per cent last year, and 31 per cent for the normal. The central and south-central districts are most advanced in soybean planting.

Oats are in good to excellent conditions in most areas, but warmer weather is needed to accelerate growth.

The condition of clover and alfalfa meadows is mostly good to excellent. First cutting is beginning mostly in southern counties, but cool weather has slowed the growth in many areas.

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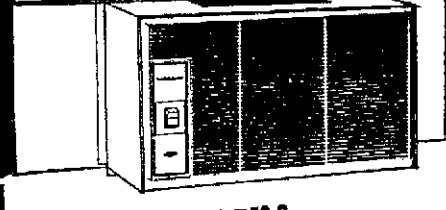
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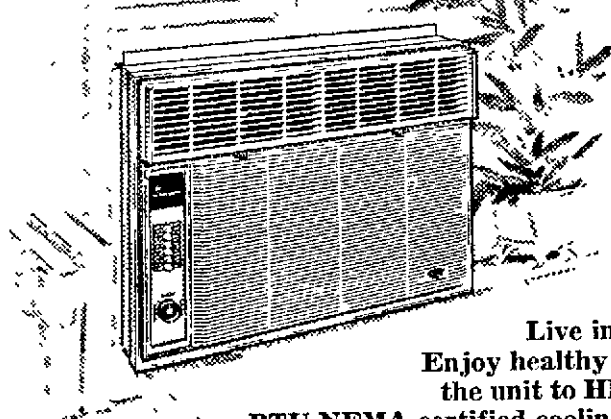


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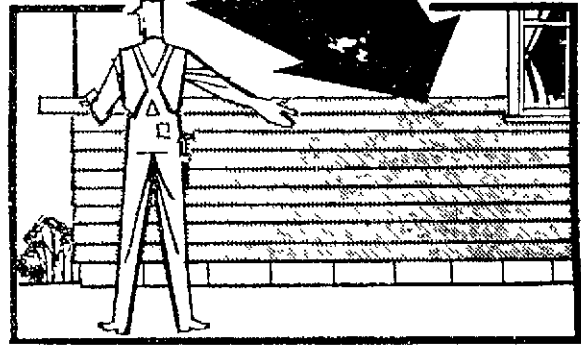
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