

hammer and chisel if they are too long or hard. Do not cut deep enough to draw blood. A pink color on the hoof is the danger signal not to trim any deeper. There should be some trimming from the inside of the toes to open the foot. There should be some of the toe trimmed on the underside as well as on the length of the toe. This helps to put the weight of the cow on her toes where it belongs.

When the trimming is completed the edges should be smoothed with a rasp so there will be a neater and cleaner appearance.

One of the best ways to increase profits from a dairy cow is to increase her life span. A dairy cow that has poor feet and undesirable leg conformation has a poorer chance of remaining in the herd long enough to be a profit to her owner than a cow with good feet and desirable leg conformation.

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### **THREE TOUGH TREES FOR THE NORTHERN PLAINS**

Boxelder, green ash, and the shrubby silver buffaloberry are considered best for farm windbreaks in the severe climate of the Northern Great Plains. This finding is based on 38 years of testing by USDA scientists at Mandan, N.D., Ardmore, S.D., and Moccasin, Mont. Other tree species tested but found too susceptible to drought for good growth in the area were brittle willow, Daphne willow, northwest poplar and Amur maple. The best arrangement of the three recommended species for windbreaks is to plant the boxelder in the center rows, the green ash on each side, and silver buffaloberry on the outside. The USDA scientists also found that proper spacing, clean cultivation, and little or no pruning are important factors in maintaining successful windbreaks.

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### **WEED SPRAY WITH INSECTICIDES?**

Evidence obtained by Iowa State College scientists indicates that it is not so good to mix insecticides and weed killing chemicals and apply them at the same time, especially where grasshopper control is involved. In most cases, the Iowa specialists say, the weed killers cause plants to curl and dry up in a few days. Since grasshoppers prefer fresh plants to the dying or sprayed ones they move on to more tasty fare.

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### **SHEEP SHEARING PARTIALLY MECHANIZED**

Two kinds of mechanical wool shearing tables are on the market in Australia. With this equipment, a Foreign Agricultural Service report says, the shearer can stand up and shear sheep with standard shearing machines. The tables can be used as a single unit or several of them can be combined into a merry-go-round arrangement or production-line shearing system.

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### **HYBRID CORN ON 90.8 PERCENT OF ACREAGE**

Of the total 79,016,000 acres planted to corn in the United States in 1956, 71,757,000 acres of it, or 90.8 percent, are planted with hybrid seed, according to the Crop Reporting Board. The 90.8 percent figure for 1956 compares with 89.4 for 1955 and 87.3 for 1954.