



NEWS OF FARM LIFE



GRANGES

COUNTY AGENT'S REPORTS

CROP NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEWS

ALFALFA MEALS FOR CHICKENS ADVISED

Mixture Offers Vitamin A Necessary to Promote Healthy Growth.

Growing chickens need some form of vitamin A to make satisfactory growth. Birds allowed to range about the farm during the growing season usually pick up sufficient quantities of green feed, but birds confined or unable to get green feed should have some feed that is rich in vitamin A, say poultry specialists of the United States bureau of animal industry.

Alfalfa-leaf meal is one of the most economical sources of vitamin A, when all feeds must be purchased, and may serve as the sole source of this vitamin for growing chicks. Other common sources of vitamin A, in addition to green feeds, are yellow corn and milk.

The percentage of alfalfa-leaf meal required in a diet, which contains no appreciable quantity of vitamin A from other sources, depends on the ability of that diet to support growth when vitamin A is adequately supplied, and on the vitamin A potency of the alfalfa-leaf meal itself. This potency is influenced by factors such as the method of preparation, variety, soil, weather and cutting. Of these, the first is by far the most important.

The best criteria of an alfalfa-leaf meal's vitamin A potency are: age, color, and "brightness." Unfortunately, it is seldom possible for the purchaser to ascertain the age of the meal he buys. Although the color of an alfalfa-leaf meal is a fairly good index of the meal's vitamin A content, the potency decreases more rapidly than the greenness of the meal changes.

Although as little alfalfa-leaf meal as 1.5 per cent of the total ration may supply an adequate quantity of vitamin A to maintain chicks in good health, and enable them to grow, it is advisable to depend on less than 5 per cent of an

COVER CROPS WILL INCREASE IN VALUE

Orchard Operators Receive Suggestions on Policy Of Soil Building.

Cover crops in orchards will be more profitable than usual this year, according to County Agent J. Roland Parker. Soil building practices under the soil conservation program made it possible for orchard operators to earn \$2 an acre for the seedling of a cover crop consisting of vetch or winter peas alone, or seeded with a nurse crop such as oats, barley, wheat, or rye, provided the soil building allowance for the farm is not exceeded and no other benefits have been earned on the same acreage in 1937. The crop may be plowed under in the spring of 1938 and a \$2 benefit earned for the turning under of a green manure crop if the soil conservation program in 1938 remains the same as for 1937. In other words, it is possible under certain conditions for an orchardist who has signed a work sheet to participate in the soil conservation program to earn benefits in 1937 and in 1938 on the same cover crop planted in the fall of 1937 and plowed under in the spring of 1938.

Need Pointed Out
"Orchard soils need cover crops to maintain fertility, to maintain the water holding capacity of the soil, to supply plant food, to prevent leaching of plant food, and to prevent erosion, and this is one practice that is essential if the vigor of trees and profitable production are to be established over a period of years," states County Agent Parker, "and no farmer who expects to have a profitable orchard can afford not to plant a cover crop whether or not he expects to receive benefits under the soil conservation program."

Early seedling of cover crops is necessary if good stands and a good growth is to be expected. Early plantings seldom suffer from winter freezes as much as late plantings, as the crop becomes well established with a stronger root system before the colder weather arrives.

Various Kinds Advised
The kind of cover crops to be planted varies with the soil types and locations. Common vetch, in 50 pounds per acre with 50 pounds of winter barley or winter oats, makes an excellent cover crop for the better soils. Hairy vetch or winter peas, 25 to 30 pounds with 50 to 60 pounds of winter rye, is recommended for thin, neglected upland orchard soils and in locations where other crops will not grow well or are likely to winter kill. Austrian winter peas, 75 to 90 pounds per acre, are excellent on the better soils and may be sown with small grains the same as vetch to advantage.

Crimson clover, turnips, and grasses often recommended for cover crops are not adapted as a whole to conditions in Douglas county, and should be used only in the case of an emergency when vetch or winter peas alone or in combination with small grains are not available.

Building of the cover crop is advised, as the seed is planted in a uniform depth and is less likely to winter kill. In drilling a cover crop, however, the drill should be run as close to the trees as possible, in order to provide a cover crop over the greatest area possible so that little or no bare spots will remain among the trees.

NEW DISCOVERY AIDS DEHYDRATION

Speedier Process Expected to Benefit Vegetable Growing Areas.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12.—(AP)—The agriculture department has announced a new discovery making possible the rapid dehydration of vegetables.

Officials said the process may prove of great benefit to the vegetable growing regions of the Pacific northwest and Utah.

They said it will provide a satisfactory method for storing fleshy plant materials like potatoes without loss from rotting, freezing, respiration, moulding and enzyme action.

The new process, the department said, provides first for exposure of the vegetable to the vapor of a chemical which causes it to become water-soaked. In this condition, the juice is more easily pressed out for immediate use or for concentration for future use.

Chemicals found to be effective included toluene, chloroform, ether, alcohol, petrol ether, carbon tetrachloride, sulphur dioxide and chloroform.

In recent tests, sliced sweet potatoes, carrots, rutabaga, beets and green beans were exposed to the vapor of carbon tetrachloride. All were water-soaked in an hour. The juice was then pressed out. It was found to be 50 to 85 per cent of the total weight of the raw vegetables.

Juice Keeps Indefinitely
"The pressed vegetable residue of vegetables treated according to this process," the department said, "dried to equilibrium within 24 hours. This contrasts with the older and more costly process in which thin slices of untreated vegetables, particularly sweet potatoes, after long periods of air drying, still contain fresh tissue on the inside."

"The juice, concentrated to a syrup, and the pressed residue, reduced to the dry condition, will keep indefinitely for future use and manufacture."

Dr. E. F. Hopkins, chemical appointee working in the laboratory of the new sweet potato starch plant at Laurel, Miss., discovered the new process, the department said, while he and other chemists were seeking a method of preventing deterioration of potatoes while in storage.

A public service patent covering the process has been applied for.

SILAGE MADE OF CULL APPLES, HAY

PULLMAN, Wash., (AP)—Washington State college dairy experiments have shown that "an apple a day goes well with hay."

The college experiment station reported that a combination of 89 per cent cull apples and 20 per cent alfalfa hay proved to be "an equally palatable ration. The cows increased their production and the butterfat gained in carotene content."

This state produces between 150,000 and 200,000 tons of cull apples annually. Disposal has been a major problem.

GIRL RAISES STOCK TO PAY TUITION

GREELEY, Colo., (AP)—Cattle are helping Margaret Baumman to pay her way through Colorado State College of Education.

She is raising blooded cattle from original stock which she purchased with \$75 she won in an essay contest. Now she has 50 head of choice Herefords and they are paid for.

ABANDONED EGGS YIELD 50 TURKEYS

TERREBONNE, Ore., (AP)—Mrs. Ada Garret, who has a small farm here, was looking over a dump

WHEAT GROWERS WARNED OF SURPLUS

Heavier Carryover Prospect Will Call for Further Crop Reduction.

A warning to wheat growers of the nation of the dangers of overproduction next year, recently issued by the bureau of agricultural economics, has been backed up by an advance statement from the agricultural adjustment administration indicating that the probable provisions of the 1938 agricultural conservation program will call for a further reduction in soil depletion crop acreages on the part of those who participate in the program.

The present situation regarding wheat has been emphasized recently by an analysis issued by the extension economist at Oregon State college, in which it was shown that while present prices of wheat are the most favorable in many years because of the world shortage, it is highly improbable that even the increased exports of the current marketing year will succeed in preventing an exceptionally large carryover next July.

Carryover to be Heavier
Latest estimates are that the carryover next July will be more than 190 million bushels, as compared with a normal carryover of about 125 million bushels. If present favorable prices result in an equal planting of wheat for next year's crop, the combined production from average yields plus the carryover would give America one of the largest wheat surpluses in its history.

With this situation in mind, the AAA is advising winter wheat producers and other farmers who grow fall-sown crops, that the probable provisions in the 1938 program will call for seeding of soil depleting crops of not to exceed 80 per cent of the 1937 soil depleting base acreage. This suggestion is made at this time for the guidance of

WALNUT CROP CUT, FILBERTS INCREASE

PORTLAND, Sept. 12.—(AP)—Estimating the total Oregon walnut crop this year at 70 per cent of normal, Louis Rossmay, local merchandise broker, said many of the orchards showed signs of blight and not more than 50 per cent of the crop will be shelled in some sections.

The largest crop in years in California point to the probability of a low price, he said.

Rossmay said the largest filbert crop in the history of Oregon is in prospect, with the total production of Oregon and southern Washington estimated at from 40,000 to 45,000 bags.

"Due to the higher prices on Brazil, wholesale grocers and chains, no doubt, will use more filberts in their mixed nuts."

"We hope the 'powers to be' will benefit by last year's disastrous policy of naming such high prices. This is an exceptional year to introduce Oregon filberts in eastern markets. It is entirely in the hands of the associations whether eastern buyers will take the filberts, as the prices will govern the sale."

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Peach prospects declined during August in both Oregon and Washington. The board estimated the total national production at 59,396,000 bushels, an increase of 11,746,000 over last year. The average for the five years ending in 1932 was 57,298,000.

CHICK SHIPMENTS TO BE REGULATED

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