

FARM FACTS

Agent Gives Instructions for Revitalizing Farm Pasture Lands

By John J. Inskeep, County Farm Agent

What about some of these old grass pastures which are somewhat depleted and from which legumes have disappeared? Ben Elmer and I inspected one just like that in the Needy section last week, a stand of Alta fescue pretty dry and dead. Here is the recommendation we made.

Apply limestone anytime this summer. Disc the field to a depth of two or three inches in August so that a good seed bed is formed. Apply and harrow fertilizer containing at least 10 pounds of available nitrogen and 40 pounds of phosphorus per acre. A third of the phosphorus would be better. Two hundred to three hundred pounds of ammonium phosphate would furnish these amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus.

Seeding Instructions

Seed per acre: two pounds of Alta fescue, two pounds of Dutch clover and six to eight pounds of Tallaroock subterranean clover. Since this is heavy seed, we recommended also two pounds of Lotus major.

This seed should be made, before the first of September, so as to catch the first rains. Small seeds planted in the middle of September have a good chance of surviving. Small legume seeds have a better chance of surviving fall plantings when made on sod.

"But what will discing do to the Alta?" the owner asked. "Experience," Ben replied, "that the Alta will be benefited more than damaged."

One day last week Elmer Deetz, who came in with a plant for identification. It proved to be a vigorous yellow trefoil or black medic plant. Elmer said he had a wonderful stand of black medic in a planting of ladino clover and Lotus major made this year.

Where the seed came from no one knows for sure. Black medic is larger than those of Lotus major and it is unlikely that the Alta will be benefited more than damaged."

Many think that we had better have a surplus of hay each year than to run short when March rolls around.

Clackamas On Air

Clackamas County will receive national recognition on Saturday, Aug. 6. On that day, National Farm and Home Hour will broadcast a description of this county's Alta fescue seed production project. Our harvest, of course, will take place in early July so Wallace Kaddler, prominent Portland Farm Radio program director, plans visiting Clackamas County on July 7th for the purpose of making a transcription for use during the August broadcast. Also featured on the August

6th nation-wide hookup will be Polk County's hairy vetch seed and Jefferson County's ladino clover seed industries. Hollis Ottaway, former Clackamas County Extension Agent, is now Extension Agent of Jefferson county. He is located at Madras.

The grower to take part in the Clackamas county portion of the program has not yet been determined. It all depends upon who may be harvesting on July 7th.

No Fish But . . .

Last week we played hooky and fished a little on the Deschutes. Fishing was terrible but a look over Jefferson County's new irrigation project was quite interesting.

Acres and acres of lush grain, ladino clover, red clover and alfalfa are now growing on land formerly devoted to growing summer fallowed wheat. New homes are springing up all over the once barren landscape. Prior to irrigation, wheat ranchers were forced to have drinking water in tank wagons. It is worth anybody's time to have a look. In fact, we suggest it as a possible week-end trip. Looks as if our wonderful stream of fishing is about a thing of the past.

Dr. A. M. Walrath, Seattle dentist and bee keeper has issued an invitation to Clackamas County bee keepers to attend the Western Pollination and Bee Pasture Conference slated for July 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th. The conference will take place on the University of Washington campus with low cost dormitory facilities for those who do not care to stay in downtown Seattle hotels.

Land grant colleges of the Pacific Northwest and Canadian authorities, together with the University of Washington, are cooperating in presenting an excellent program. The general theme of this conference centers around the place of bees in pollinating useful domesticated and wild plants.

Most authorities agree that modern insecticides have depleted the wild bee population and that domesticated bees will be of increasing importance to production of a host of horticultural and field crops.

A copy of the program and details for registration is available at the Extension office in Oregon City.

Demonstration of Lotus

An excellent demonstration of the place of Lotus major as a forage crop for soils of poor drainage may be seen on the Rollin Maddock Jersey farm two miles north of 91 corner. The field in question lies on the east side of the road. For years this area has grown nothing but highland bent grass.

Rollin has seeded strips of Lotus major here. It is knee high and vigorous, just the crop for white land.

We are importing an additional hundred pounds of New Zealand mother white clover for pasture trials on farms of Dr. C. H. Sea-graves, Logan and Rognar Anderson, Colton. This shipment will leave New Zealand on July 5th and should be here in time for late August or early September plantings. We may have a surplus of fifty pounds or so for some other Clackamas county farmer.

In making these importations, it is not our purpose to compete with seed firms. We feel that, if pasture plantings and local seed production prove satisfactory, seed produced locally will enter normal channels of trade.

Recently also, because we have established connections, we assisted Oscar Loe, Silverton seed dealer and grower in importing seed of both certified New Zealand white clover and Montgomery red clover. Oscar reports that he saw Montgomery red growing in England. He wants to try it here because it is late and harvest may be delayed beyond the rainy season.

As we finish these notes on Saturday, we learn that chivings fescue demand has increased with stiffening prices. Union county reports only thirty percent of a crop.

A letter from Eric C. L. Head, Seymour, Australia, indicates a short sub-clover seed crop there.

Instructions for Garden Compost Given by Agent

Lawn clippings, pea and bean vines, carrot tops and all other organic materials from the garden, as well as tree leaves, are excellent sources of organic matter for composting, states Leon Garoian, Jr., County Extension Agent. Since success in gardening depends a great deal upon organic matter in the soil, it is important that these sources of organic matter not be destroyed or carted away in the soil. Lack of fertility has been especially evident in city and town gardens grown on vacant city lots.

No definite requirements can be given for a compost pile. It may be any length or width to suit the convenience of the gardener. A simple way of making a compost pile is to pile the leaves or other organic matter about one foot deep. Over this lay leaves, straw, or other material, spread about one-third pound of sulfate of ammonia, or other nitrogen fertilizer. Also add superphosphate and lime at the rate of one-fourth pound each per square yard. In place of lime, one-half pound wood ashes may be used per square yard.

Each successive application of organic matter should receive the same treatment, add enough water to make the material moist, in order to help decomposition. Place on each layer or organic material a layer of two inches of manure, or layer of the richest soil available. This provides bacteria which speeds up the process of decomposition.

After eight to ten weeks, the pile should be forked and turned over or repiled, after another three weeks, fork or turn it again to thoroughly mix it. This turning and mixing promotes rotting.

Interested gardeners may obtain a copy of Extension Circular 415 "Composts for Garden Soils," by writing the County Agents' Office.

Lamb Price Falls With Lack of Care

Farmers are losing an average 50 cents a head on lambs that are now going to market simply because they failed to look after what has long been considered a good management practice in producing lambs, that of castration and docking.

The producer pays for his neglect through a system of established discounts, says Farm Agent Del Purnell.

Both operations, castration and docking, are usually accomplished soon after a lamb is dropped. The sooner the better. If not done, a lamb's tail collects dirt and filth thus increasing parasite and disease danger. Lambs not castrated are affected by poor meat quality.

It is often claimed that there is too much danger of infection through open cuts. One method now in use to greatly cut down the opportunity for infection is the use of the Elastater. This method is simple, efficient and highly sanitary. It is reported from some sections that this is also being used very successfully on beef calves on the range.

Livestock Losses From Predators Up

Losses of livestock from predators increased during the month of June as turkey poult went on range and young stock roamed their pastures, reported trapper, Clifford Rollison in his June report.

M. K. Ferry of Lad Hill lost 108 turkeys to fox and the total reported loss came to 151. Thirteen sheep were reported lost to coyotes.

Rollison's catch included six fox, two coyote, and one bobcat, along with numerous skunk and coon. Stock owners wishing to report losses due to predators or call on Rollison are advised they may do so through the county agent's office.

Farm Accident Toll Is Swelling, Agent Says

Farm accidents take a terrifically high annual toll, according to the Multnomah county agent's office.

Every day during the year 1948, 2,400 farm people in the U. S. suffered injury or death from accidents — all this at a loss in medical, dental and hospital care of \$36,000,000 and the loss of over 17 million days of labor.

Falls are the leading type of farm accidents — about 1/4 of all accidents being the result of a fall.

Machinery and livestock figure in about 12 per cent of the total accidents. Of the machinery accidents 28 per cent were with tractors. Many were broken or sprained arms and wrists from cranking the tractor or being struck or run over by tractors being hitched to machinery.

Tractor tip-overs are on the increase. This can be somewhat contributed to the increased speeds that the tractors will travel, but is largely due to carelessness around ditch banks, fence rows, on steep hills and in trying to make adjustments while the tractor is in motion.

Many operators try to save a few seconds by making adjustments to drag implements and some even try to adjust carburetors while the tractor is in motion. STOP THE TRACTOR FOR ALL ADJUSTMENTS, is the advice of the Farm Safety council.

Of all farm accidents over 3

Time for Walnut Growers to Check Trees for Disease

Now is a good time for Clackamas County walnut growers to look for "snakeheads" in their walnut trees, suggests Leon Garoian, Jr., County Extension Agent. They are noticeable as top growth bare of leaves. Some twigs may have only a tuft of leaves at the tips. Snakeheads are usually the result of too little boron in the soil. When caused by a shortage of boron, the trouble may be corrected by an application of borax broadcast on the ground under the area shaded by the tree or by broadcasting over the entire orchard.

With small trees, broadcasting borax under the tree is cheaper, but with larger trees, broadcasting all over the orchard may give better results.

While February with its rains to dissolve borax, is considered the right time to apply borax, now is a good time to be on the lookout for symptoms in preparation for the application next winter.

With every increase in power machinery on the farm, more care is going to be necessary on the part of the operators to prevent deaths and maiming.

Loans for Storage Bins Available at ACA Office

Farmers who need additional storage bins on or near their farms are urged to take advantage of recent legislation authorizing the Commodity Credit Corporation to make loans to farmers for constructing or acquiring farm storage facilities. Under this storage construction plan, the Commodity Credit Corporation will either guarantee loans made by approved local lending agencies or make direct loans to producers.

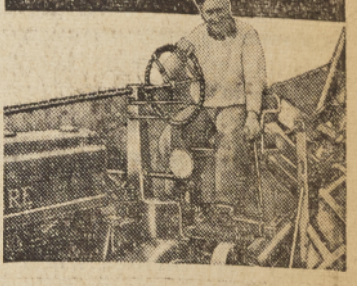
The loans will cover up to 85 per cent of the cost of the storage structure or 45 cents per bushel of the rated storage capacity, whichever is the smaller. Repayment will be on an installment plan over a period of not more than 5 years with provisions for extension in instances such as crop failures, etc.

The proposed structure must be an eligible storage structure under the Government's price support loan program and any storage payments earned on the structure will be applied against the construction loan.

Clackamas County producers who are in need of additional storage capacity for their own production of wheat, rye, oats, barley and flaxseed are eligible for this loan.

An further information may be obtained at the Clackamas County ACA office, 660 McLoughlin Blvd., Gladstone.

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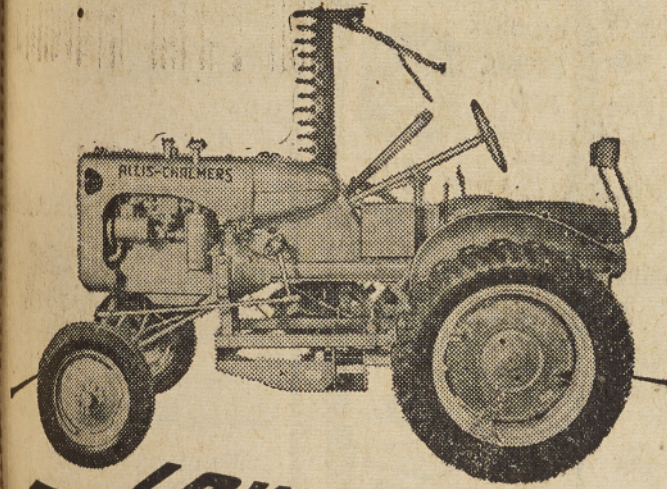
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